



The Official

# OREGON SECTION AEG NEWSLETTER

## January Meeting Details

**Date:** Thur. January 10, 2008

**Location:** Crowne Plaza Hotel

14811 Kruse Oaks Drive

Lake Oswego, OR

**6:00 pm Social**

**7:00 pm Dinner**

**8:00 pm Presentation**

**Dinner: Meat or Veg (request with reservation)**

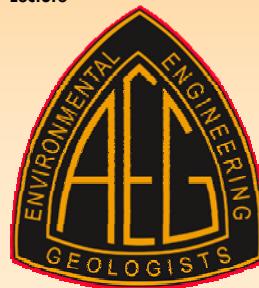
**\$35Dinner (\$18 Students)**

**Reservations:**  
mwegner@cornforthconsultants.com with "AEG Reservation" in the subject line or 971-222-2047 by 4pm Thursday January 3rd.

**A Reservation Made Is A Reservation Paid !**

## Upcoming Meetings:

- February 19, Ivan Wong, Seismicity in Oregon
- March 18, John Martin, Browns-ville Dam
- April 15, AEG Student Night
- May 20, John Clague, Jahns Lecture



## January Meetings Guest Speakers Are Stephen Hay and Susan Ortiz from ODOT - Presentation: ODOT's Emergency Response to the Storm of December 2007

The January meeting is a joint meeting with the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Between December 1-3, 2007 the Oregon coast, coast range and Willamette Valley were hit with two record wind and rainstorms. Throughout the region, strong winds and heavy rains damaged public and private property, cut-off power supplies, caused extreme flooding, and isolated communities. In ODOT's Region 1, the heavy rain and flooding caused road embankment and cut failures throughout the coast range – most notably closing the Mist-Clatskanie Highway (OR47). One week after the storm a debris flow originating in a storm debris-clogged drainage closed US30, west of Clatskanie.

ODOT Region 1 geologists and engineers responded to the storm event immediately and were on-site in the coast range and west side of the Portland Metro area on the morning of December 3rd, working with ODOT Maintenance to close roads, as appropriate and begin to catalog damage. With the support of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), ODOT continues emergency response to the storm

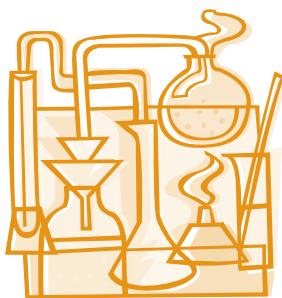
event, to repair roads and safely re-open them. Stephen and Susan will present a summary of Region 1's emergency response

efforts and the steps being taken to safely repair and re-open the roads.



*"Keen observation is at least as necessary as penetrating analysis"*

*Karl Terzaghi*



## Message From The Chair

"Laissez les bon-temps rouler!" (Referring either sarcastically, to my New Year's Eve non-de-bauch, or as a subliminal plug for the AEG annual meeting in New Orleans next fall.) I am taking a break, to write this column, from "celebrating" New Year's Eve by grading tests and papers from the introductory geology class I taught this past semester. It's a bit depressing how many of my students are (still!) befuddled by logarithmic graph paper (why are the lines that way? is it some kind of optical illusion?); or who think that the mathematical function describing ground-water flow is called Darcelle's law. Oh, well – "we shall carry on, with style". (A free pint for any-one who can

tell me the movie from which I stole that line.)

December's meeting saw another good turn-out, as we heard Ken Cameron's take on the White River debris flows across Highway 35, during the big November 2006 storm – while much of the conversation revolved around the 2007 storms, floods and landslides of the previous weeks. Engineering geologists throughout the region were involved during those events and in their after-math – some of them cited, shown, heard and/or quoted in the media for their great work. December's events will be the topic at our joint meeting with ASCE this month (note the non-standard date), so make sure to reserve a place.

As I mentioned at the December meeting, the Washington AEG section is organizing a Seattle Fault field trip–plus–Mariners game this spring, and they are inviting Oregon section folks to the party. They have settled on Saturday, May 31st (the weekend after Memorial Day, with good tides), for a full day visiting geologic sites, followed by an evening game. Out-of-towners could make it an overnighter (Friday and/or Saturday night) in the Emerald City, with families welcome; we are looking into Amtrak schedules, or could form carpools. Stay tuned.

So, now, it's January 1st, 2008 – have a happy, safe and productive new year!

Matt Brunengo, Section Chair

## Seattle Fault Field Trip & Mariners Game - May 31st

The AEG Washington Section has invited the Oregon section for a full day of events including a field trip to the Seattle Fault and a Mariners Game. Save the Date May 31, 2008 ! More details to come.

**The Oregon Section is also on the web at <http://www.aegoregon.org>  
National AEG webpage: <http://aegweb.org>**

## Thanks For Supporting AEG !

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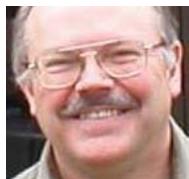
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mbrunengo@aol.com



Chair Elect:  
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ODF  
jhinkle@odf.state.or.us



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scofield@onemain.com



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mzimmerman@gri.com



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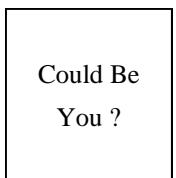
Newsletter Editor:  
Bill Burns  
DOGAMI  
bill.burns@dogami.state.or.us



Membership Chair:  
Ruth Wilmoth  
Columbia Geotechnical, Inc.  
ruthwilmoth@comcast.net



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Cornforth Consultants  
dbeckstrand@cornforthconsultants.com



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ssb@pdx.edu

## Photos of the Month

The January photos are from Andy Vesely at Cornforth Consultants-Landslide Technology. The photos are of a house that was hit by a slow-moving debris flow in Jan 2006 near Welches, OR. The debris flow occurred January 10th, 2006, during a period of heavy rainfall and regional flooding. The flow debris consisted of silt, sand, gravel, cobbles and boulders, with numerous tree trunks and vegetation. The debris hit the back of the 1935 vintage home, knocking down a portion of the back wall, and allowing mud to slowly flow through every room on the main floor of the house. No other structural damage occurred to the house. The homeowner was in the living room at the time the mud flow hit the back of the house. He heard a noise but did not know that significant damage had occurred until he saw the mud oozing into the living room. Mud continued to ooze into the house until the entire main floor of the house was covered in mud ranging in thickness from 4 to 5 feet in the back bedroom to 1/2 to 1 foot toward the front of the house. The home sits at the base of the east flank of Huckleberry Mountain approximately 1 1/2 miles south of US 26 at Welches, Oregon.



To submit a photo, please email the picture in a JPEG or TIF format to bill.burns@dogami.state.or.us. Also include a short paragraph describing the photo and project.