
MODESTO ENGINEERS CLUB

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FIELD NOTES

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April 7, 2009

Join us on April 7th for Ronald Skaggs of Condor Earth Technologies for a presentation on:

'Recent Advancements in the Application of Foamed Asphalt



Ron needs no introduction to the Modesto Engineer Club. He will be speaking on Cold foam in-place recycled asphaltic concrete (CFA). This is a methodology for in-place recycling of distressed pavements. Ron's presentation will discuss several case studies that are good examples of innovative applications of CFA in urban and rural areas using pavements which conventionally would not be considered as

good candidates for CFA treatment due to their existing pavement and/or aggregate base (AB) thickness, and/or the quality of the underlying subgrade. One of the projects included in the presentation, City of Chico East Avenue, was awarded the 2008 ASCE Geo-Institute Project of the Year Award.

Ron holds a Bachelor of Civil Engineering from Fresno State, and a Masters in Engineering from UC Davis, 1985. He is a licensed Civil and Geotechnical Engineer in California, and is currently the managing Principal of the Stockton office of Condor Earth Technologies, Inc. and a Board member. His community activities include Past President of the Central Valley Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers, President of the San Joaquin Engineers Council, and Chief Umpire for Sunset Little League. Ron is married to his wife, Karen, of 26 years and they have six children, ages 9 to 21. Their family makes their home in Stockton and they currently are hosting two foreign exchange students.

Save the Date:

Formal Lunch Meetings: First Tuesday of each month. Upcoming meetings: May 5, 2009, June 2, 2009, July 7, 2009, August 4, 2009, September 1, 2009, October 6, 2009. 11:30am – 1pm at SOS Club, Mellis Room, 819 Sunset Avenue

Lunch features a buffet style meal. The main courses will vary each week. Please sign in and pay **\$10.50** to the Secretary, (\$5.00 for students). The beverage, tax and tip are included.

Informal Meetings:

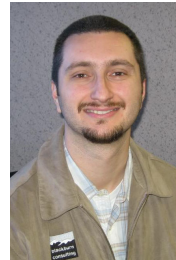
Members regularly meet on Tuesdays, 11:30 am to 1pm at the Old Mill Café corner of 9th & F St. in Modesto for camaraderie. No formal program is presented.

Attendance at Last Month's Meeting: 28 members, 4 guests, 1 speaker, for a total of 33 attendee's. The SOS staff will be adding another table because of consistent high attendance. February was standing room. Great to see good attendance!

Freeloader for April 09: Matt Machado! Ross Campbell shuffled the deck well and pulled Matt's card on the second pull. If you will remember from last November Matt was pulled on the 3rd card but was not present to claim his lunch. It pays to attend and Matt was fortunate enough to have a second chance.

Scholarship Fund: Thanks to all for your generosity in contributing to the Modesto Junior College Fund. Most members responded to the opportunity to add an extra \$5 onto their dues for the Scholarship Fund. We nearly paid for all of this year's scholarship with the donations received.

Presidents Message:



It's Spring time, everything is new, green and things are heating up. Best time of the year in my opinion. March flew by faster than February. At this rate yesterday will become tomorrow sometime soon. It is nice coming from an eventful month like February to an event free month like March. Maybe we should have a St. Patricks Day lunch. Something for our next president to think about.

Quote to Ponder:

"Engineers like to solve problems. If there are no problems handily available, they will create their own problems."
Scott Adams

Secretary's Editorial:



March's speaker was George Petrukakis of Jensen & Friedrich, LLP who gave a self-described boring discussion on SB 375. His discussion was anything but boring and generated much discussion and questions. Thanks again to George for taking the time to speak to us. George will long remember the MEC for the fine he received, and graciously paid, for the slight dig at the engineering profession. It's a tough crowd George.

Artifacts, Relic's and Ceremonies

You know you belong to a great club when it has artifacts, relic's and ceremonies. Recently in the news was *The Skull and Bones Society* at Yale University for allegedly raiding the grave and stealing the remains of Geronimo off federal property about 100 years ago. Along with Pancho Villa and Martin Van Buren's bones for good measure. Can't you just hear their memberships discussion for the next months activity? "Well guys, what should we do this month for fun?" These guys take their club activities to a new level.

Which of course brings me back to the Modesto Engineer Club and our activities. This month I'd like to discuss our ceremonies and then visit some of our relic's and artifacts later. Take our investiture ceremony for instance. Our newsletter has stated for quite some time that a 'simple, yet dignified' ceremony brings our new members into the club. As you know we receive an applicant and if the check clears we are good to go. We hardly have a ceremony at all any more. Not so in our murky past. I ran across what amounts to be an ancient undated parchment which details the hallowed '*Ceremony of Initiation*'. It includes a lengthy and soaring dialogue about how "*for countless millenniums the*

boundless resources of this planet slept in useless lethargy until the coming of the Engineer” and how “rivers were forced to pay tribute in the form of mighty, invisible energy and compelled this energy to transport itself to distant farms and cities to turn the wheels of industry and banish darkness” and presumably power cappuccino machines and the warming lights at IHOP. After the reading of how the world was saved thanks to the Engineer an appointed Initiation Officer directs the Sergeant at Arms to present the newly elected members and leads them in a promise which requires that the new pledges will “in the event of a dire public emergency....subordinate personal interest to those of their City, State or Nation” with upheld right hand. Whew! I wonder if the members rushed to the scene with the news of the Tacoma Narrows Suspension Bridge collapse in November 1940? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mclp9QmCGs> (The attached video is dedicated to Engineering professors everywhere. They give their all for the cause of education.)

Back to our ceremonies, installing club officers required even more rigor. The Officers promise that they will “never hesitate to invoke the Bylaws when deemed necessary and that whenever unfortunate circumstances may arise wherein fines must be levied....they will be collected without fear or favor.” (Note: Next time a member’s cell phone goes off during the meeting it’s going to be a one way trip to the Gulag when I’m President.) An appointed Marshall then conducts the newly installed officers to their stations. “FIRST THE ENGINEER” is oft repeated in these old texts. Yes, we seem to have lost our ceremonial fervor and are in need of some revamping.

So what about artifacts? Well we have a few. And what’s the history of that chamber pot? It seems that....well, let’s save that one for May. And then there is the bell and the gavels. Stay tuned.



We wish to thank our friends at **Stockton Blue Reprographics** for continued, consistent support of the Modesto Engineer Club for 2009.

Best Attendance for 2008-09: Current records indicate that we have 6 members tied for Perfect Attendance. You must sign in to be counted as present. Congratulations again to the following:

- John Amstutz
- Sergio Fuentes
- Earl Kleinfelder
- Daniel Machado
- Andrew Malizia
- Evangelina Paoluccio

2009 Officer Installation Dinner

Plan on attending the 2009 Officer Installation Dinner when President David Castro lays down the gavel and Jennifer Pratt is inaugurated as the President. This dinner is our Clubs formal time to be together and share a great meal together. Date and place will be announced later but mark your calendars now for the October event.

**‘HOW TO’ of the Month
Dress for the Job!**



Check the MDSP sheets for appropriate wear while supervising Bio-Hazard Field Investigation. Or better yet stay away!