
MODESTO ENGINEERS CLUB FIELD NOTES

Volume 2009, Issue 12

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December 1, 2009

Featured Speaker:

Join us on December 1st for Kris Balaji of Jacobs whose topic will be 'Out of the Box, 'Power' in Leadership.

Save the Date:

Formal Lunch Meetings: First Tuesday of each month. Upcoming meetings: January 5, February 2. 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 treasurer, (half off 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.

Speakers coming in 2010:

- Mayor Jim Ridenour
- Sherriff Adam Christiansen
- County Supervisor, TBA

Attendance at Last Month's Meeting: 22 members, 4 guests and 2 speakers

Freeloader for October: Evangelina Paoluccio wins again! She was pulled by Sergio to take advantage of a free lunch.

Thanks to our Sponsor:



Thank you Stockton Blue for your generous support of the Modesto Engineers Club.

Presidents Message:

Happy Holidays!

As I write this, I find it hard to believe that it is the end of 2009 already and that we are almost two months into the Modesto Engineer's Club year. I am proud to tell you that the board and the new officers are energized and ready to take on the prospects for 2010 and welcome any opportunity to hear from our members on any issue. It is an understatement to say that 2009 has been a challenging year for engineers, and really, for the community overall. My vision for our club this year is to overcome these challenges by meeting the

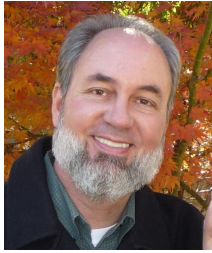


needs of our members and the community through opportunities of networking with each other and giving back through education. Currently, we already have seven of our members giving back to the students in our area by mentoring for the Future City competition. Thanks Rapunzel, David, Brian, Des, Dan, Ross, and Matt! Our next goal for this year is for a successful event at the annual Engineer's Day at the Mall in February. I already have a list of interested volunteers and will be setting up a meeting some time in early to mid December to "work out the details." The club also looks forward to our annual social events, such as the Valentine's Day luncheon. The board has briefly had some discussion about adding other potential evening events for this year. (Your ideas are always welcome.) And as always, we have monthly networking at our meetings. I look forward to seeing you all there at the monthly meetings and encourage you to bring a guest. The potential for support to make it through these challenging times is unlimited if we all pitch in – even just a little.

You have my best wishes for a safe and peaceful holiday season. Let's make the most of this opportunity to relax and enjoy the holidays and to share our joy with family and friends!

Jennifer Pratt
President, MEC

Secretary's Editorial: The Most Important Things in Life I Learned From My Drill Sergeant



The President's message was so lengthy I have been kicked back to the second page! Oh well....

I was in Pacific Grove with my son and asked him if he wanted to drive through the old Ft. Ord on the way home. I'd show him where I did my Basic Combat

Training. So we drove around while I got my bearings and ended up at the old barracks building. It was empty, run down and being overtaken with ice plant. Walking around I related all the ridiculous situations that soldiers find them in during Basic Training.

Way back in the early '70's I somehow found myself on a bus loaded with young men about my age driving onto Fort Ord. Upon arrival my instructor (a nice chap known as Drill Sergeant Graham) greeted our bus. I was anxious to introduce myself and ask where my room was. A hot shower would feel good and maybe get some good chow before hitting the sack. Sergeant Graham said to us, "Get you and your trash out of this bus you pile of maggots!!" Obviously a Type A personality.

Sergeant Graham (and his fellow colleagues) and I got along great and I always tried to keep a pleasant look on my face. I realized later that my attempt at pleasantness in the face of adversity looked a lot like a smirk. Sergeant Graham encouraged me in many ways to wipe that smile off my face. Maggot!

During my encounters with my Sergeant Graham I figured out that everything I needed to know about life I learned from my Drill Sergeant. Time does not permit all the lessons but Sergeant Graham taught me one thing that I have applied many times in my life. He told me that setting priorities in life boils down to this order: **'Accountability, Serviceability, Pretty'**. Let me illustrate:

- **Accountability**- if you are issued a weapon, or whatever, make sure you have one in your possession until put away securely. *Give answer for the things you are entrusted with.*
- **Serviceability**- make sure it works properly and is functional. *Be useful with what has been entrusted to you.*

- **Pretty**- When all else is taken care of get out the cosmetic bag. Paint it, polish it, whatever....

The quick lesson here is to keep your priorities straight. Don't fall prey to just putting on a good show with nothing to back it up. Texan's say it another way: "He is all hat and no cattle". Same thing. This Army philosophy can be extended into raising a family, running a business, or running a life. Be accountable (Have the tools), Provide serviceability (Use your skills), and lastly add the 'pretty' part. You can't go wrong with this advice. You got that maggot?

From the Archives This sketch was on the cover of an early MEC membership directory!



You've got to look closely at the details at the 'old school' methods of surveying. The lower your LS number the harder you will laugh. Anyone record data in a Field Book with a pencil, carry a hatchet, or wear boots like that guy?