
MODESTO ENGINEERS CLUB FIELD NOTES

Club Motto: "First the Engineer!"

Volume 2010, Issue 6

www.modestoengineersclub.com

June 1, 2010

Featured Speaker:

Join us on June 1st for Kevin Swazas

Upcoming Speakers:

- June 1 Kevin Swazas
- July 6 Mayor Jim Ridenour
- August 3 Anthony Cannella
- September 7 Chris Pai
- October 5 Ron Skaggs

Save the Date:

Formal Lunch Meetings: First Tuesday of each month. 11:30am – 1pm at SOS Club, Mellis Room, 819 Sunset Avenue

Lunch is \$11 and features a buffet style meal with drinks and dessert. The main courses will vary each month. Please sign in and pay the Treasurer. Always wear your name tag.

President's BBQ: Plans are being made for this August 2010 Event.

Officer Installation Dinner: October 2010. Yes, it is coming up! Plan now to attend the premier event of the year.

Last Meetings Proceedings:

Vice President was fined \$2 for 'not properly notifying the President' he was going to be absent from the meeting. Our Treasurer was fined \$3 for sticking up for the VP.

Attendance for May was 13 members plus one speaker.

Secretary's Editorial: The Society of Clubs



You may have noticed that in the masthead of the Field Notes there is a new feature: The MEC Motto. To be honest with you I did not ask anybody about this nor did I seek permission or a Board vote to choose that or place that there. I guess I'm just feeling my oats and stuck that there.

So where did I get that motto?

From the archives of course. Last year I wrote an article about our induction ceremony for new members. The Sergeant-At-Arms used to read some far out story about how the Engineer brought mighty rivers under their control to serve mankind, etc, etc. In that dirge there were the words, "First the Engineer!" At first I thought they were serious but then I realized that this club has a history of humor with its professionalism.

Organizational motto's have always been an interest of mine. While driving up near Jackson, CA I was struck by the SweetPea Septic Service. Motto: "*We're Number One in the Number Two Business*" Now that is a real class act. Google's corporate motto is 'Don't Be Evil'. While that is nice and all, it really falls short about what really to be. I mean come on, don't be stupid.

The United States Marine Corps motto is 'Semper Fidelis'. The Marines have shortened this to simply 'Semper Fi' on their bumper stickers. Don't get me started on the Marines.... I'm Army so there is a natural rivalry here. The Marines greatest achievement is their PR abilities. They have most of us convinced that they are an elite fighting unit, but aside from their snazzy dress-blue's uniforms they are really just soldiers like the Army, and all soldiers deserve our respect. Oh yes, their song is better than the Army's too. The Army's song talks about 'hitting the dusty trail, over hill and over dale'. The Marine's 'fight for right's and freedom and to keep our honor clean' in the hall's of Montezuma. That is until Montezuma gets his own kind of revenge on those guys.

The politicians have always been fodder for motto's too. There was Barry Goldwater's motto in 1964, "*In your heart, you know he's right*" This of course was countered with the Democrats version, "*In your guts, you know he's nut's*".

Change seems to always be on the mind of the Democrats. Obama, 2008: "*Change We Can Believe In*", Mondale 1988: "*America Needs a Change*", Carter, 1976: "*A Leader, for a Change*" and "*Not Just Peanuts*". OK, the one about peanuts was not very inspired but it was an official campaign slogan. I don't think I will attempt a new motto for our Club. "*First, the Engineer*" is fine with me!

Speaking of our Club: This issue of the Field Notes will be my last editorial as Secretary. Des Orsinelli takes over the full Secretary/Treasurer duties at the end of June. Mr. Orsinelli will fill these pages with witty and pithy sayings. So my pen will fall silent for a few months until President Pratt passes the gavel in October, at which time we will be back for more as your President.

Help Wanted: Seriously. Local engineer club seeks talented motivated individual to serve as Secretary/Treasurer for one year term. Salary is out of this world. Term begins in October 2010. Fast promotions to Vice President, and President. Inquire within.

Purpose of the Modesto Engineers Club

The preamble of the club by-laws is quoted: "The object of this club, primarily, is to provide an organization in which Engineers of all branches of the profession may come together, and through which they may cooperate and foster fellowship and the development of the engineering profession in public affairs and community welfare". The club, having been founded in 1932, currently has about 60 members.

Who May Join:

The by-laws are further quoted: "The membership shall consist of those who are or have been engaged in the direction or prosecution of engineering or architecture, or teachers of students of engineering or other allied sciences". To join simply obtain an application from any Officer, complete and present to the Secretary at the next regular meeting.

A \$25.00 initiation fee and first years dues of \$25.00 (\$50.00 total) is payable with the submission of application. Thereafter the dues are \$25.00 per year to renew. New members will receive a certificate of membership and a nametag. Members pay for their own lunches.

Club Activities: The Club meets once a month on the first Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the SOS club. The program usually consists of a speaker on technical subjects and local affairs of interest to engineers. There are several social affairs during the year, which include the annual President's Steak Fry, A Valentines Day luncheon, the annual Officers Installation Dinner. Spouses and guests are welcome at all functions.

Brain Teaser:

This months Teaser is brought to you by Secretary Des Orsinelli. Please email your answer to dorsinelli@brwncald.com or bring it to the next meeting. Those answering correctly (and present at the June meeting) will be served dessert and coffee by Secretary Orsinelli.

There are 12 silver balls, only 1 of which is either heavier or lighter than the others. There's a balance scale.

What is the minimum # of uses of the scale to find which one is the different ball and whether it is lighter or heavier?

The 5 stages of engineering:

- 1. euphoria**
- 2. disenchantment**
- 3. search for the guilty**
- 4. punishment of the innocent**
- 5. distinction for the uninvolved.**