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# MODESTO ENGINEERS CLUB FIELD NOTES

Volume 2010, Issue 5

[www.modestoengineersclub.com](http://www.modestoengineersclub.com)

May 4, 2010

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## Featured Speaker:

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**Join us on May 4<sup>th</sup> for Jerome Thiele,  
Modesto Airport Manager.**

## Upcoming Speakers:

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- June 1 Kevin Swazas
- July 6 Mayor Jim Ridenour
- August 3 Anthony Cannella

## Save the Date:

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**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.

## Last Meetings Proceedings:

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The membership approved a motion to finance the 2011 Engineer Day at the Mall by raising funds to hold the event at Vintage Faire Mall. We will need to raise \$500 to cover the Mall's fee for holding an event there. Rapunzel Lewis set the example by bringing a very generous surprise donation of \$100 to the April luncheon. Thank you to Amador-Lewis!

Additional funds were secured when the Vice President levied fines to several Board Members for tardiness to the April Board Meeting. A fine of \$1 was also assessed against President Jennifer Pratt as 'interest' on the IOU she presented for other recent fines she had incurred. Former President Tom Delamare was assessed a \$2 fine for slandering the noble profession of Landscape Architecture during the speakers presentation.

The Treasurer was directed to keep account of the proceeds which will be set aside to defray the costs of Engineer Day at the Mall 2011.

**Freeloader for May:** Don Hicks is our winner!

**Attendance for April** was 23 members plus one speaker.

## Presidents Message:

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The Modesto Engineer's Club was asked present next Thursday, May 6th at a Science Expo at Hickman Charter School. We will have a booth set up at the school from 5pm to 7:30pm. I will be attending and plan on having a few poster exhibits, computers set up with the bridge modeling software, gum drop/toothpick activity, and hoping to have a few hands-on supplies and/or goodies. There's room for 2-3 volunteers – please let me know if you would be available. I'd specifically like to have survey equipment set up so let me know if you might know anybody willing to volunteer their time and equipment for that. Also, if you have any supplies (i.e. anything a kid can pick up and touch – core samples, aggregate, etc.) or goodies (company pens, key chains, etc.) please let me know.

I hope to see you all next Tuesday at our May Modesto Engineer's Club meeting.

## Secretary's Editorial: Flying Volvo Wagons

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I've owned a couple Volvo's in my day. They have a reputation for safety. Which given the fact that I have 3 kids prompted us to look for something that would have the staying power of a large granite boulder.

Not that I had much to worry about, but my eldest son had already rolled a pickup in Kansas and went half way through the back window when it came to stop upside down in a ditch. The phone call went something like this, "Hi dad, first of all I'm ok....." Which is a lot better than it could have been.

The next son got a little wide on a curve on Briggsmore and put his 'crotch rocket' motorcycle into the concrete barrier. He was dressed for a day at the beach instead of wearing any kind of real protection. I was changing his Mummy-like bandages for 2 weeks.

And then there is my daughter. My dear daughter..... Apple of my eye, but she makes Dale Earnhardt look like a Driving Miss Daisy. Her idea of a good time would be in a Monster Truck driving over a line of Toyota Camry's. She loves manufacturing her own fireworks. She can light up the sky like Alamogordo, New Mexico in 1945.

Suffice to say that given these kids safety is paramount with our family.

But I don't have a Volvo anymore. A couple weeks ago I parked it on Rumble Avenue while attending a funeral. My wife was outside and heard the crash and looked up to see the Volvo in the air, hit a tree and come to rest in the PUE across the sidewalk. The cosmetic side strips along the doors had all been yanked forward a foot from the tree impact. THAT was a very sudden stop.

The Chevy pickup that hit my car went off on this crazy bumper car trajectory around the pavement as the driver (cell phone in hand) struggled to drive with 3 wheels.

As I looked over the scene I could not see anywhere that the car had touched the ground for 55 feet before the tree stopped the car and dropped it on the lawn. A headlight hung like a poked out eyeball but I was able to start and move the car away. It was put on a tow truck and put in storage for the insurance people to scratch their heads over.

Being the Arborist that I am I examined the tree as well. It got 'barked' at the site of impact and it well eventually callous over, but there were permanent structural cracks in the trunk. Those don't heal ever. So we'll hope the new growth will seal in those cracks before bugs and diseases get in there.

The Volvo may or may not be totaled because the cosmetic damages might exceed the value of my 17 year old car. I'm thankful that no one was in the car or coming the other way when Salvador was trying to drive while finishing his conversation. (*"Hey, gotta go now, there's some control issues I have to deal with....later man."*) And I'm thankful there was no one on the sidewalk. So all in all, my car is probably a goner but no one was hurt. That, in my book, is a good day.

By the way.....can I get a ride to the next meeting?

### **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 66 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:**

Here is a challenge for any engineers in the group. Let the Vice President know what your answer is at the beginning of the meeting, or email me the answer. I'll serve you dessert and coffee during the meeting if you get it right:

For his breakfast, Homer Ewin likes an egg that has been boiled for exactly 9 minutes. He has two egg timers (those with sand in them), one that runs for 4 minutes and one that runs for 7 minutes. How can he use these timers to boil his egg?