
MODESTO ENGINEERS CLUB FIELD NOTES

Volume 2008, Issue 11

www.modestoengineersclub.com

November 4, 2008

Save the Date:

Formal Lunch Meetings: First Tuesday of each month.
November 4, 2008, December 2, 2008 January 6, 2009
11:30am – 1pm at SOS Club, Mellis Room, 819 Sunset Avenue

Lunch features a buffet style meal. Please pay \$10.00 to the treasurer, Dan Machado, (half off for students). The beverage, tax and tip are included. The main courses will vary each week. Please park in the street or at Dryden Golf Course. The club parking lot is for SOS Club members only.

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.

This Month's Presentation:

This month's speaker is the City of Modesto's **Public Works Director, Nick Pinhey**. Many of you may already know Mr. Pinhey and may have even worked with him on some of your projects. Whether you know him or not, come and find out what major projects the City of Modesto has looking forward. These projects affect all of us - jobs for engineers and services for the citizens of Modesto. This will also be a good opportunity to meet the Public Works director for the largest city in Stanislaus County.

Board Meetings: 7am-8:15am, Old Mill Café, by appointment of the President.

2008-2009 Officers and Board Members:p

President: David Castro
Blackburn Consulting
president@modestoengineersclub.org

Vice President: Jennifer Pratt
City of Modesto
vicepresident@modestoengineersclub.org

Secretary/Treasurer: Dan Machado
Ps1 Landscape Architecture
secretary@modestoengineersclub.org

Board Members:

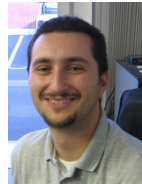
Steve Davis, Ryan Carrel, Doug Samski, Rapunzel Lewis, David Leamon, Mike Reiben

Attendance at Last Month's Meeting: 23 members, 6 guests

Freeloader for November: Tom Delamare

Best Attendance for 2008: Records indicate that Earl Kleinfelder leads by a nose for best attendance of regular meetings, closely followed by Homer Erwin, Bud Turpen, Dave Hoberg and David Castro.

Presidents Message:



Greetings from your 2008-2009 Modesto Engineers Club President. We had a great installation dinner and I thank all those who joined us. Now that we are going into November, it is time to start talking about Engineers Week at the Mall (EDM). Our last event was really successful and a lot of fun, so let us keep up the tradition with our third annual EDM and continue to make it a success. If you have speaker suggestions let our new VP Jennifer Pratt know as she is now in charge of our future speakers. If you have certificate or name tag questions/concerns please speak with our new Secretary/Treasurer Dan Machado. I am looking forward to another exciting and thrilling year as an MEC officer.

Vice Presidents Message:



It being my first month as your Modesto Engineer's Club Vice President I want to encourage everyone to attend as many of the monthly meetings as possible. Also, I also want to encourage members to provide feedback on the speakers. Let me know what you liked or would like to see. You can contact me by email or phone or just let me know at the meeting.

Secretary's Editorial:



It is a pleasure to greet you as your 2008-2009 Secretary Treasurer. The new officers are looking forward to the upcoming year and we will be building on the successes of those that have led the club in the past.

During the Officer Installation Dinner Board Member Ryan Carrel asked me to introduce myself and give a vision for the upcoming year. He basically gave me an RFI with a 10 second deadline, but since we have worked on different projects over the years I forgave him quickly.

I began by saying that it was unusual for a landscape architect to be an officer but I did not detail my limited background in engineering. Although I cannot claim an education, degree or license in engineering I have worked closely in the field. To my

credit I enrolled in the last Slide Rule course ever offered at MJC but it was canceled for lack of enrollment! I have run in the engineer circles for years though.

I had volunteered for active military duty near the end of the war in Viet Nam and eventually found myself in the 20th Engineer Brigade (Combat Airborne) in a small detachment doing Terrain Analysis. I was impressed that dump trucks and road graders had mounted 50 cal machine guns on them. Now that is a tough job site! This gave me 3 years of experience in the engineering field.

Upon my discharge I was employed at E&J Gallo Winery in the Engineering and Planning Department. This is where I began making acquaintances with many of the engineering firms in the area and working with people such as Dennis Wilson, Roy Galli, Gordon Hart and Tom Delamare. No one mentioned the Modesto Engineer Club to me and that may be a 'fine-able' offense. At Gallo I could stretch a steel tape with the best of them and could run Dumpy Levels, Auto Levels and finally the Theodolite. I was now up to 11 years in the engineering/surveying field.

Later, I was asked to join O'Dell Engineering as Director of Landscape Architecture. I was there four years before starting my own firm finally working exclusively in my field: Landscape Architecture! I was now up to 15 years of close association in the engineering field.

So this Landscape Architect is not entirely unacquainted with this profession. When I spoke at the MEC in 2002 I was very surprised how many people I already knew here. Joining this club was easy and I've enjoyed the friendships here.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee is designed to market the Club to potential new members. Every member can be a part of this effort by forwarding along our monthly newsletter and talking about the club. Please extend offers to join the club to your colleagues.

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".

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".

Club Fees:

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 will be provided for our formal lunch meetings. Members pay for their own lunches, and for meals at other events.

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 most functions.

Size of Club:

The club, having been founded in 1932 enjoys a wealth of former members, and approximately 65 active members.

To Apply:

To join please complete an application. Please obtain the signatures of two active members. After submittal of your application, it will be read at the meeting. At the next meeting at which the applicant is present, membership will be based on a two-thirds affirmative vote of members present. You will then be inducted. The ceremony is simple, but dignified. Applicants are welcome to attend weekly meetings while their applications are pending.

Levied Fines:

To maintain club discipline the President has the authority to levy fines completely at his/her whim. Offenses may be failure to wear a name tag during meetings, not showing evidence of voting, conducting business during meetings, talking during presentations, failure to mention the Modesto Engineers Club to the media, etc. As a warning to members an appropriate receptacle for fines is maintained and prominently displayed at every regular meeting.

Standby Agenda's:

The Board would like three standby speakers for the monthly meetings. The standby presentations should be from the existing membership. These presentations would be in case the guest speaker has an emergency or is sick and cannot make it. Standby speakers would receive as little as 2 hours of notification (A real Toastmaster challenge). If you would consider being a standby speaker, please contact Vice President Jennifer Pratt.

'HOW TO' of the Month



Constructing Knee Braces. Lightweight, easily obtainable non-conductible materials, common tools for construction. Ground guide, clear fall zone, high mobility. Not much wind shear here. Very sweet. Hello.....OSHA.....911.....?