
MODESTO ENGINEERS CLUB FIELD NOTES

Volume 2009, Issue 10

www.modestoengineersclub.com

October 6, 2009

Featured Speaker:

Join us on October 6th for William Wong, PE, City of Modesto who will talk on Phase 2 Tertiary Wastewater Facility Project.



Save the Date:

Formal Lunch Meetings: First Tuesday of each month. Upcoming meetings: October 6, November 3. 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.

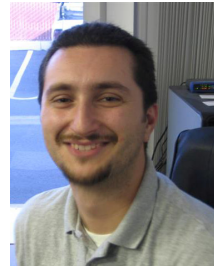
Attendance at Last Month's Meeting: 22 members, 4 guests and 2 speakers

Freeloader for October: Sergio Fuentes was our lucky engineer and was pulled by Ross Campbell. Given Sergio's perfect attendance I am sure we will see him one last time!

Best Attendance for 2008-09: We had a grassroots campaign rise up on behalf of Evangelina Paoluccio. Although she had perfect attendance this year her record was marred due to giving birth. By popular demand she has been reinstated for perfect attendance. Please sign in with the secretary to be counted as present. Congratulations again to the following:

- John Amstutz
- Sergio Fuentes
- Earl Kleinfelder
- Evangelina Paoluccio

Presidents Message:



I have had a wonderful time being the President of the Modesto Engineers Club this past year. It has been a great experience and I want to thank the club for the opportunity, thank you. We are excited to have Des Orsinelli volunteer to be our next officer. The membership will have the chance to vote Des in as our next officer at our next regular meeting. On Wednesday October 21 is when our new officers officially begin their new duties I officially end mine. The officer ballot for 2009-2010 looks like:

Jennifer Pratt – President

Dan Machado – Vice President/Secretary

Des Orsinelli – Treasurer

I want to thank David Leamon for his service as a board member for 7 years as he will be stepping down and becoming a normal member again. I hope to see a full house for our next meeting as we have a lot happening in October and you don't want to miss it.

My final quote to ponder:

'Do or do not, there is no try'
Yoda D'Kana the Whill

Next Event:

**Officer Installation Dinner
October 21st**

Secretary's Editorial: Get Your Things Together



My last editorial is here! As I write this the Club does not yet have a named successor for the Secretary - Treasurer job. However I have confidence that with a little gentle persuasion a new generation will step up.

What to say at this momentous occasion? Well, I'd like to do what we all need to do which is clean house and finish up some business. First of all I want to put a strong admonition to attend the MEC Officer Installation Dinner on October 21st so please earmark this date. Ross Campbell (member since 1957) officiated at the induction ceremony last year. The current officers promised to double the size of the dinner. This does not mean larger portions of mashed potato's and beans. It means attendance, which was good last year but we'd like to make it even better. So please come out and show your support!

Secondly, it is good to have things in life put in order just in case something happens. To illustrate: a few months I nearly killed myself with foolishness. That would have looked really good on my tombstone. *"Daniel Machado, loving husband, Not to Bright Individual. RIP"*

I'm a tree hugger of sorts so I enjoy being close to natural environments. I like eating granola with my Mountain Dew and Ding Dongs. Last Thanksgiving my family and I were in Mendocino looking at an ocean that was as beautiful as it was violent. The day was gorgeous with huge maverick waves crashing against the shoreline. There were reports of swamped boats and danger signs were posted. It was under this specter that I decided to enjoy a closer look at the pretty water. I walked out on a lower area with very sharp jagged rock. Very wet jagged rock. I'm no dummy. I knew I was going to get wet and that was ok. A little spray never hurt anyone. I was joined by another gentleman with a Chihuahua on a leash. My wife was above me and snapped a photo just as a wave hit the rock sending up a wall of water taller than the Golden Gate Bridge. I turned away and hunched my back thinking I'm going to get a little wet. What I felt was similar to being on the discharge end of the Seven Gorges Dam. Fortunately (I think) I was pinned against the jagged rock as the water fell upon me. My face became intimately acquainted with solid rock.

The receding water revealed a couple dazed men and one terrified Chihuahua that was gnashing at his %\$@* leash. I stood up, looked at the other gentleman and said, "...Uh oh, here comes the *Big One!*" Sure enough it seemed like the entire sea in all its righteous fury was lifting up and heading toward us. The song *Bad Moon on the Rise* by Creedence Clearwater Revival raced through my mind, *"hope you got your things together, hope you're quite prepared to die..... There's a bad moon on the rise."*

Dogs of course have instincts of impending natural disasters. They sometimes howl or are fidgeting minutes before an earthquake or tornado. The leashed Chihuahua was furiously burrowing into the solid basalt in a futile attempt at escape. He knew what was coming and was doing something about it. We humans have natural defenses too. Our defense was to drop our jaws with a really dumb look, open our eyes *really big* and make a small squeaky sound. I'm not sure how we evolved THAT reaction. It's like a deer caught in the headlights before getting creamed on highway 108 near Long Barn.

But this time I did not wait for the water to put me on the rock. I hit the deck and held on. Once again we were under several feet of water. I'll have to admit it was kind of pleasant under the sea in my Octopuses Garden. It was cool and quiet and, except for the lack of air, I could spend some time down here. I could be an opportunistic feeder catching whatever food might float by for survival. This is not unlike the current professional status some of us are in anyway, so this was familiar territory.

Somewhere above us were some screaming spectators running for high ground and two wives who were beside themselves with panic. For the moment though I busied myself doing my best imitation of a barnacle. The water once again receded and I was done having my fun day at the beach. We finished our pleasant day shopping the quaint shops of Mendocino buying bandages, hydrogen peroxide and pain killer. There was no concealing I was a really stupid tourist at this point.

So I say farewell to my job as Secretary/Treasurer and I hope that I've got my things together before the next wave of life hits. I look forward to quietly eating my lunch in peace. Pass the tarter sauce please.

NEWS FLASH, STOP THE PRESSES! This just in as I was ready to go to press: a new officer was just confirmed this morning (September 29, 2009) at the MEC Board Meeting. Be sure to come to the lunch on October 6th to offer condolences to our newest officer. And come to the Officer Installation Dinner. **RAFFLE PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN!**

**Photo of the Month
Wear your head protection!**



Lose your hardhat? Inspectors nearby?

Put a piece of foam rubber and duct tape to head. You are covered and good to go!



FUTURE CITY COMPETITION

Rapunzel Lewis, Northern California
Regional Coordinator

We would like to thank the membership of Modesto Engineers Club for your contributions to the 2009-2010 Northern California Future City Competition. In addition to financial support, several members of MEC, David Castro, Brian Veitch, and Des Orsinelli, have volunteered to serve as "Engineer-Mentors" for our local schools. The club's contribution will be an integral part of bringing this opportunity program to local schools in Modesto and Turlock.

CREATING GREEN LIVING SPACES TO HOUSE THE NEEDIEST;

THAT'S NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK FOUNDATION'S 2009-10 FUTURE CITY® COMPETITION CHALLENGE FOR AMERICA'S MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

Designing affordable housing for those most in need is enormously complicated. But how to do it while adhering to LEED recognized green building standards, with an emphasis on energy efficiency and a low carbon footprint?

That's the challenge for America's middle schooler's as they prepare for National Engineers Week Foundation's 2009-10 Future City® Competition. Now entering its 18th year, Future City Competition invites seventh and eighth graders nationwide to create the cities of tomorrow and encourages interest in science, technology, engineering and math through hands-on applications. "Future City motivates students to learn more about the possibilities and opportunities for careers in engineering," said Leslie Collins, Executive Director, National Engineers Week Foundation. "As they participate in the competition, they realize that engineering is exciting and creative and that they can use what they know to make a difference in the world. Helping young people discover what the field has to offer is a critical step in insuring that the engineering profession continues to grow in the years ahead."

Themed *Providing An Affordable Living Space For People Who Have Lost Their Home Due to a Disaster or Financial Emergency*, this year's Future City Competition will attract more than 33,000 students from 1,100 middle schools in regions located across the country. Participating students will be asked to design a model of their city using *SimCity 4 Deluxe* software, and then build a physical model of the city using recycled materials. They will also write a research essay describing their design and a second narrative outlining the key features of their city.

The regional competition gets underway with the new school year in September and culminates with the regional finals in January. One winning team from each region qualifies for a trip to the national finals in Washington DC, which take place during Engineer's Week, February 15-17, 2010. The National Finals Grand Prize winners receive a trip to U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama; the second and third prize winners receive \$5,000 and \$2,000 scholarships for their schools' technology programs.

"We learned that engineering is more than just making sure that buildings work the way they are supposed to," commented Tom Krajnak, 14, a member of the 2009 Grand Prize winning team from Bexley Middle School in Bexley, Ohio. "Engineers are involved in every aspect of building a city. We discovered how necessary they are and now we know the reasons why."

Registration deadline for schools nationwide is October 31, 2009. Future City is also looking for professional engineers who may be interested in serving as mentors. For information, school registration, or to volunteer in the Future City Competition, visit www.futurecity.org.

