



The Official

Newsletter

of the Oregon Section Association of Engineering Geologists

Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental, and Groundwater Geology

NOVEMBER 2003 SECTION MEETING

GUEST: JACK MEYER, GEOLOGIST, NW NATURAL

PRESENTATION: NW NATURAL'S GEOLOGIC HAZARDS PROGRAM

Jack will discuss and illustrate NW Natural's geohazard program. His presentation will be on the company's philosophy concerning geohazards, what are the geohazards that may threaten a natural gas pipeline, how they find out about them, and how they manage them at site specific and system wide levels. In addition to normal Right of Way maintenance, NW Natural inspects its entire system four times a year and after significant rain events. Since their field crews are the eyes and ears on the ground, Jack will also discuss how they are trained to



recognize geohazards and indicators of potential hazards as well as install strain gauges and read inclinometers. A case history will be included in the presentation.

Jack is a PSU graduate. He has twenty-seven years of experience in oil and gas, geothermal and underground storage field exploration and development. He is also experienced with geological hazards as they relate to high-pressure natural gas transmission lines. Currently responsible for reservoir development in NW Natural's multi-phase underground storage expansion project. Mr. Meyer is part of the team that is responsible for insuring the safety of NW Natural's gas distribution and high pressure transmission system from geological hazards.



This Month's Meeting is on Tuesday November 18

Luck Labrador Brew Pub
915 SE Hawthorne Blvd
Portland, Oregon

6:00 pm Social
 7:00 pm Dinner
 8:00 pm Presentation

\$12.00 dinner (\$6.00 for students).
 Options: Chicken or Veggie Bento

Call URS at 503-222-7200 by 4 pm
 Thurs. Nov. 13 with your
 reservation. There is a \$2.00
 surcharge for those who do not
 reserve by the deadline -

so call now!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I received some anonymous mail this week, directed to the Oregon Section of AEG. The mail was from a former resident of a small town who evidently empathizes with a local developer whose construction excavation may have destabilized a known landslide. The slightly misinformed anonymous letter writer expressed outrage at the geologists and engineers who failed to recognize the slide potential associated with the proposed construction. After a little checking, I learned that there were no geologists involved with the initial evaluation of the project, and the proposed construction appears to have gone through municipal planning approval, design, permitting, and initial construction without geologist review. You can imagine that several geologists and geotechnical engineers are involved now in litigation support which will likely go on for years. Will this example

change the way geologic services are procured by private and public interests? I doubt it. Engineering Geologists alone are responsible for advancing their professional services. Sure the attorneys, developers, engineers, and public agencies will request geologic services occasionally when they think they need it or when there's responsibility to direct or deflect. AEG members please take note and work diligently to incorporate professional geology more into planning and design and less into mitigation and legal defense.

On another note, for those that were not present at our October meeting I want to reiterate how proud we are to have Dr. Scott Burns, our past National AEG President, past Oregon Section board member, newsletter editor, and PSU student chapter adviser active in our ranks. In recognition

for Scott's support of AEG we presented him with a selection of wine produced on some of Scott's favorite paleosols.

Also please remember to renew your AEG membership. October's membership list included 90 paid current and 55 yet to renew. If you don't know or remember if you renewed you can check the AEG-web.org. web site and renew membership online.

Finally, I would like to reschedule a board meeting on the afternoon of our November Meeting. I'll contact you individually to check schedules. I'm also interested in hearing from committee chairs and members throughout the Oregon Section to discuss your ideas for improving our organization, communication, and public outreach.

Regards,
Warren Krager
AEG Oregon Section Chair

AEG OR CALENDAR

Nov. 18: Jack Meyer, NWNatural Geohazards Program

Dec. 16: Jon Allen, Newport DOGAMI Office, Coastal Geomorphology Research

Jan. 20, 2004: TBA

Feb. 17: Joint ASCE/AEG, speaker to be confirmed

Mar. 16: Rick Lahusen, USGS CVO, Real-time monitoring of debris flows

Apr. 20: Student Night

May. 18: George Priest/Charlie Hammond, Johnson Creek Landslide

OREGON SECTION AEG NEWSLETTER is published monthly from September through May. Subscriptions are for members of AEG affiliated with the Oregon Section or other Sections, and other interested people who have requested and paid a local subscription fee of \$10.00. Email subscriptions are free.

News items are invited and should be sent to: Charlie Hammond, OR Section AEG Newsletter Editor, Cornforth Consultants, 10250 SW Greenburg Road, Portland, OR 97223, email: or.aeg.news @cornforthconsultants.com, phone (503) 452-1100. Electronic media is preferred. Deadline for submittal is Friday three weeks before each meeting.

Please notify Charlie if you have a change to your email or mailing address.

MEMBER NEWS

At S.D. Schwarz & Associates, Inc. **Sig Schwarz** is enjoying being an Oregonian again after an absence of 45 years and living in Astoria, a non metropolitan area. He is enjoying semi-retirement and spending fun time in rejuvenating some old technology on the application of Acoustic Emission to "earth movement" inves-

tigations. He is conducting personal research at the nearby Astoria Upper Town and ODOT's Johnson Creek research event on Highway 101 at Otter Rock. Baseline data has been acquired during dry season and monitoring will be continued through the winter. The results of this work, if determined meaningful, will be shared with

any interested parties without cost.

Input to Members News: Thanks Sig for helping to revive this section of our newsletter! If anybody would like to share news or information with our members and other interested parties, please send or email it to the Newsletter Editor.

OLD NEWS ITEMS

Membership Information: If your membership information has changed, please take the time to update through the AEG Website or by contacting our Chief Staff Executive Becky Roland at (303) 757-2926 x307

"Seeking Old AEG Annual Directories": If anybody has any pre-1997 AEG annual directories, please email George Freitag, History Chair at gfreitag@gri.com. George is compiling our sections history.

His mailing address is: GRI Inc., 9725 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy, Beaverton, OR 97005

OREGON SECTION OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS



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Legislature Chair: position available

Continuing Education Liaison: position available

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING OREGON AEG!

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