

# SEAC Newsletter

## Mark Your Calendar

**General Membership Meetings**  
(Breakfast 7:30 a.m.)  
January 18  
March 15  
May 17  
July 12  
September 13

**Business Practice Committee Meetings**  
(Breakfast 7:30 a.m.)  
February 8  
April 12  
June 14  
August 9  
October 11

**SEAC Board of Directors Meetings**  
(7:30 a.m.)  
February 1  
April 5  
June 7  
August 2  
October 4

**SEAC Seminar**  
Details to follow

**Annual Dinner Meeting**  
November 8  
6 - 9 p.m.

## March's General Meeting:

Attila Beres, the West Coast Regional Engineer of the Portland Cement Association, will present the Unified Design Provisions currently contained in Appendix-B of ACI 318.

These provisions, which are very likely to appear in the main body of the 2002 edition of the Code, provide a more rational design procedure for reinforced concrete members. Design aids and examples that illustrate the use of the provisions will be presented.

## Dues Payments

"Oh cheese-n'-crackers\*!" said **Brent Norris**.  
(\*Insert what you think Brent really said.)

Our new V.P. /Treasurer has been nominated for "Idiot of the Year Award." Yes, it is awfully early in the year for that nomination to be surfacing . . . but because of his failure to include information about where to return your 2001 dues payment, the nomination was made.

He said he realized this glaring oversight just as he heard the sound of the last 200+ dues notice envelopes hitting the bottom of

the mailbox. "Too late now!" he figured. He is rather stressed out about this, so tease him gently.

If you haven't already done so, please make your checks payable to: Structural Engineers Association of Colorado or SEAC.

Mail your remittance to:

**Brent Norris**  
c/o J. R. Harris & Company  
1580 Lincoln Street, Suite 550  
Denver, CO 80203

## Don't Miss Out

### Upcoming General Meeting

**Date:** Thurs., March 15 @ 7:30 a.m.

**Speaker(s):** Attila Beres  
Portland Cement Assoc.

**Location:**  
Renaissance Denver Hotel  
3801 Quebec Street (south of the I-70 and Quebec Street intersection)

**Reservations:**  
Call Janet Gemberling at Martin/Martin 303-431-6100 or fax 303-431-6866 by **noon** on Monday, March 12, 2001.

## You've Got Mail

Many members have included their email addresses with return of their dues notices, and indicated their interest in receiving both the newsletter and other information via email. The board is actively working on developing this electronic communication, and is looking for a little help from those who may have experience in this area.

If you have experience with list server email distribution, and are willing to help SEAC set this up for our membership, please contact **Ed Buteyn** at [ebuteyn@jirsahedrick.com](mailto:ebuteyn@jirsahedrick.com) or 303-839-1963.

## Officers & Board Members



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### Submit comments/articles to:

*Ben Nelson*

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*Information for inclusion in the newsletter  
must be received one month prior to the next  
general meeting.*

Shawna K. Zachman  
Newsletter Publisher



## SEAC Updates

### Professional Members

Mark Keller  
Structural Consultants, Inc.  
J.R. Baker  
Structural Consultants, Inc.



## Ed's Eloquence

One of the really great things about the internet and email is being able to communicate with persons throughout the world. Yesterday I received an unusual email. It was from a gentleman in India, near the site of the recent earthquake. I assume he got my email address from our SEAC web site. He

had a problem. He lived in a 10-story apartment building that sustained slight damage in the quake. Local building and government officials were telling the residents they were not permitted to return to the building until a structural engineer could determine that it was safe. His email suggested that perhaps some non-destructive testing needed to be done, and could our organization help them with that. My heart went out to that man, and others whose lives have been devastated. Unfortunately, that was all I had to give. I couldn't provide him any physical assistance that could improve his situation.

Today, I spent much of the day receiving verbal abuse from a contractor regarding how conservative, uncooperative and unresponsive we were. He believed we were not actively seeking structural solutions that were providing the owner with an "economical building." He informed me that if this were a design-build arrangement he would be directing the design, and we would be providing exactly what he wanted. I was somewhat less than pleased with his attitude and what I perceived to be a lack of professionalism and respect.

So, why I am telling you these things? First and foremost is this - the public of our cities and our world depend on us to design safe structures, to the best of our knowledge and ability. Their lives, quite literally, depend on it. Secondly, there will always be those who pressure us to make changes to our design based on cost savings, without realizing they may actually be compromising the structure. Perhaps this tension is good. Perhaps it makes us better engineers. It is highly unlikely that at anytime during the course of your structural engineering career, someone will thank you for making their world a safer place. If it ever happens, it is probably because some great disaster has occurred. However, each of us should count it to our credit, and the credit of the profession that the world is a safer place, because we did our jobs well.

Concurrently, we should consider ourselves fortunate that the structures we have designed have not collapsed due to events of nature, or perhaps our own human failings, knowing that we will make some mistakes.

Hang in there! Make decisions based on your professional judgement and experience, and stick to your guns. Our service to the public is not frivolous or inconsequential. Take pride and satisfaction in making this world a safer and a better place, and don't tolerate anything other than mutual respect between design and construction professionals.

# Committee Announcements:

## SEAC Wants You!

Join and be an  
active member!



### Membership Committee

If you have questions about this committee, please contact **Jerry Maly** at (720) 962-8688, [jmaly@wje.com](mailto:jmaly@wje.com)

### WebSite Development Committee

An ad hoc committee is being established to study possible development of the SEAC website. **Rodd Merchant** has agreed to chair this committee. **David Poe**, the current "webmaster" of our site, has also agreed to serve. If you have ideas of how our site could be developed to best serve our membership, and are interested in being a part of this committee, please contact Rodd at (303) 431-6100.

### Computer Committee

The SEAC Board would like to revive the Computer Committee. It has been a while since there has been any activity in the committee and there has been a lot of change in the computer industry and its applications in the engineering community.

Other organizations are developing standards for CAD files. It would be beneficial for SEAC members to be made aware of developments in this area as well as topics such as organizing work groups over the web, 3D modeling systems (structural and visual), and categorizing and listing web sites that have useful information for structural engineers. Any members that are interested please contact **John Garlich** at 303-964-7023.

### Legislation Committee

If you have questions about this committee or would like more information, contact "**J. C.**" **Moore** at [jcmooorepe@aol.com](mailto:jcmooorepe@aol.com)

State Legislation - This is the time of the year all of the state legislation takes place, and this year there were just two bills so far which are of interest to engineers. A bill promoted by the American Society of Plumbing Engineers to license plumbing designers through the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors was quickly defeated when it came up for a vote in the first Senate committee assigned to handle it; the main opposition came from ASME and AIA. There is also a bill to license interior designers, which is opposed by the Colorado AIA Chapter, but the interior designers want to be licensed separately through the State Department of Regulatory Agencies like chiropractors, realtors, optometrists, and 26 other occupations. No action has been taken on this bill at the time of this writing.

## Available SEAC Publications for Purchase

### GUIDE: Recommended Standard of Practice

price: \$15 (members)

\$20 (non-members)

Contact:

Bruce Wolfe, Structural Consultants, Inc. 303-399-5154

### 1997 Survey of Colorado Building Departments

price range: \$20 to \$100

Contact: Henry Lopez 303-447-2813

### 1971 Colorado Snow Load Report

price: \$10

Contact: Henry Lopez 303-447-2813

1999 Seminar Proceedings:

### Suggested Local Standard of Practice in the Precast and Steel Industries

price: \$15

Contact:

Bruce Wolfe, Structural Consultants, Inc. 303-399-5154



Need for Colorado Engineering Council Representative - In order to be advised of all the state legislation and other occurring statewide engineering activities which might be of interest to SEAC members, I have been SEAC's representative on the Colorado Engineering Council ("CEC") for the past four years. I was elected treasurer of the CEC last May 2000 for a one-year term, and plan to serve for several years. It is CEC's policy to have an additional representative from a constituent organization when their representative becomes an officer. Anyone interested in joining SEAC's legislative committee and representing us on the CEC should call me at (303) 465-5807 or drop me a note via email. We meet the Wednesday evening of each month except December, July, and August and there is the need for a few volunteer hours throughout the year.

University Student Awards - Each spring, the CEC awards a Silver Medal and Certificates of Merit to the outstanding engineering seniors graduating from 10 Colorado universities. These students are first evaluated by their school's faculty and then interviewed by CEC members and other interested engineers. These interviews occur between mid-March and mid-April at the following 10 campuses:

Colorado School of Mines  
Colorado State University  
Colorado Technical University  
Metropolitan State College of Denver  
United States Air Force Academy  
University of Colorado - Boulder  
University of Colorado - Colorado Springs  
University of Colorado - Denver  
University of Denver  
University of Southern Colorado

(continued on page 4)

## Committee Announcements (from page 3)

The interviews consist of taking three students out of lunch and then interviewing them back at their campuses, with this taking approximately four total hours. CEC could use volunteers, especially in Fort Collins, Colorado Springs, and Pueblo. Please contact me to sign up; you will find this interesting and rewarding.

State Science Fair - Each April, the CEC hosts the State Science Fair for 4th through 12th grade students in Fort Collins. Volunteer judges are always needed for a few hours to evaluate projects for awards. Please contact me to sign up; like the university student interviews, you will find judging interesting and rewarding.

### NEW INTERNET DOMAIN NAMES

Some of you may have read an article on Page 1C of the Monday, January 29, 2001 edition of the Denver Post entitled "'Dot-coms' have company." It stated that the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers has selected the following seven new domain suffixes, which could come online as soon as April:

- .aero — air-transport industry
- .biz — businesses
- .coop — nonprofit cooperatives
- .info — unrestricted use

- .museum — museums
- .name — individuals
- .pro — accountants, lawyers, and physicians

What upset me was the statement that "only certified lawyers, physicians and accountants can grab a dot-pro domain." Don't ask me how professional engineers got left out! We need to stir up our Congressmen, the Federal Trade Commission, Afilias, which is the registrar for dot-info, ASCE, NCSEA, CASE, and anyone else to get us engineers into the dot-pro domain. **Or better yet, how about us getting new domain names with a dot-eng to identify our profession?!** The Colorado Engineering Council is going to contact all of their 22 constituent societies for input — let me know your thoughts.



Don't forget to make your phone reservation for the March meeting by **noon** on March 12!  
Call Janet at 303-431-6100

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### **SEAC Newsletter**

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