

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.

May's General Meeting

"In-Place Masonry Testing"

Robert Van Der Hoeven and Dave Woodham, both with Atkinson-Noland & Associates of Boulder, will present a variety of in-place testing techniques for structural and non-structural masonry walls.

Robert and Dave are both registered Colorado Professional Engineers and have extensive experience in masonry testing and construction.

Their presentation will cover testing techniques ranging from simplistic to sophisticated. They will review case studies that implemented various methods and discuss the "lessons learned" from such testing. Several building code provisions for restoration and renovation of existing structures depend on in-place strength characteristics of masonry, so come hear what Robert and Dave have to say about this important topic.

Don't Miss Out Upcoming General Meeting

Date: Thurs., May 17 @ 7:30 a.m.

Speaker(s): Robert Van Der Hoeven and Dave Woodham, Atkinson-Noland

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, May 14, 2001.

Vapor Retarders Under Slabs-on-Grade

A recent article in the April 2001 issue of Concrete International summarizes the following regarding vapor retarders and the proper installation thereof.

The report of ACI Committee 302, "Guide for Concrete Floor and Slab Construction (ACI 302.1R-96)" states in section 4.1.5 that "if a vapor barrier of retarder is required due to local conditions, these products should be replaced under a minimum of 4 in. (100 mm) of trimable, compactable, granular fill (not sand)." ACI Committee 302 on Construction of Concrete Floors and Committee 360 on Design of Slabs on Ground have found examples where this approach may have contributed to floor covering problems.

Based on the review of the details of problem installations, it became clear that the fill course above the vapor retarder can take on water from rain, wet-curing, wet-grinding or cutting, and cleaning. Unable to drain, the wet or saturated fill provides an additional source of water that contributes to moisture-vapor emission rates from the slab well in

excess of the 3 to 5 lb/1000 SF per 24 hour period recommendation of the floor covering manufacturers.

As a result of these experiences, and the difficulty in adequately protecting the fill course from water during the construction process, caution is advised as to the use of the granular fill layer when moisture-sensitive finishes are to be applied to the slab surface.

The committees believe that when the use of a vapor retarder or barrier is required, the decision whether to locate the material in direct contact with the slab or beneath a layer of granular fill should be made on a case-by-case basis.

Each proposed installation should be independently evaluated to consider the moisture sensitivity of subsequent floor finishes, anticipated project conditions and the potential effects of slab curling and cracking.

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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

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Peak Engineering, Inc.
Dennis Finn
Peak to Peak Engineering
Christian Fogstad
Hilti
Jennifer Goupil
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Jacob Brennan
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Sean Davis
CKA & Associates
Michael M. Eberhard
Peak to Peak Engineering
Brian Tinkey
Martin/Martin

Dues Are Due

Most SEAC members have paid their 2001 dues, but if you haven't yet, please do so before we sic the SEAC Dues Police on you and your firm! Be forewarned that our Treasurer enjoys this "police action" second only to eating his "Krispy Kreme" donuts!



President's Message

Many of you probably have served on volunteer boards or committees of some sort, whether it be in your business or at church or perhaps with a non-profit organization. Why did you do it? Sometimes we may just have a desire to give our time towards a cause that we feel is particularly worthwhile, such as helping those less fortunate than ourselves, or working towards a cure for a disease. Occasionally, these positions are used as a means to achieve a personal goal. If we are honest, we admit to liking the recognition that may go along with it, or there is something to be gained from our involvement.

In the case of the SEAC board, it is a honor to be selected by your peers to serve in a leadership role, but while serving you quickly realize that there is a lot of work to be done, and the time demand can be significant. However, the rewards are great. The endeavor of developing professional and personal relationships, addressing issues and concerns of the profession, and hopefully advancing and promoting the profession, is a worthy one.

What are you and your firm doing to enhance the structural engineering profession? Are employees encouraged to attend technical meetings and seminars, or are they made to feel that they are taking valuable time away from production? Do you hold regular meetings in your office to assist in personal development of engineers technically, professionally and otherwise? What about involvement on a national level with ACI, AISC, or others? Will your company pay some expenses involved with that type of service? Are you willing to put in the time necessary to be an effective committee member? Do you read technical journals or participate in code-development activities? Is your company willing to hire graduates fresh out of school, or do you let the other companies provide the training and hire them away after a year or two?

Please note that the above paragraph is all in the form of questions. I'm not providing answers. The key question is the first one. What are you and your firm doing to enhance the structural engineering profession? I believe that if we ignore the profession, while concentrating only on our current projects and deadlines, we are both shortsighted and foolish. There is no guarantee the profession will continue in the future. Have you seen some of the latest software for building design? Maybe technicians with powerful software will be designing buildings in the future. Maybe each office will just have one registered professional engineer. Maybe contractors will provide design/build services. Does that sound like any other engineering professions you know of? The continuing strength of the profession is dependent on persons being willing to step up and lead the way into the future. Will you be one of them?

Ed Buteyn

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

WebSite Development Committee

If you have questions about this committee, please contact **Rodd Merchant** at (303) 431-6100 or **David Poe** at (303) 423-1717.

Computer Committee

The SEAC board has revived 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. Updating/enhancing our website is a top priority.

Also, other organizations are developing standards for CAD files and it would be beneficial for SEAC members to be made aware of developments in this area. Other 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 are ideas for discussion. Interested SEAC members should contact **Ed Buteyn** at 303-839-1963 or **John Garlich** at 303-964-7023, or **Rodd Merchant** at 303-431-6100.

Next General Meeting

July 12 – “What the Design Engineer Needs to Know About Welding”

Look for the next SEAC Newsletter for more information regarding our upcoming July meeting’s presentation of Dwayne Miller’s (Lincoln Electric) talk on welding. Dwayne is the 2001 “T.R. Higgins Award Winner” and we are very fortunate to be able to present his lecture to the general SEAC membership courtesy of AISC.

Publications for Purchase

GUIDE: Recommended Standard of Practice

price: \$15 (members) and \$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



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 or 303-839-1963.

Signs of the Times

The following was emailed to us via a SEAofTexas Member:
All-Y'all know it is a sign of the times when.....

- You try to enter your password on the microwave.
- You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
- You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
- You e-mail your buddy who works at the desk next to you.
- You chat several times a day with a stranger from South America, but you haven't spoken to your next door neighbor yet this year.
- Your reason for not staying in touch with friends is that they do not have e-mail addresses.
- You hear most of your jokes via email instead of in person.
- When you go home after a long day at work you still answer the phone in a business manner.
- When you make phone calls from home, you accidentally insert a "9" to get an outside line.
- You've sat at the same desk for four years and worked for three different companies.
- Your biggest loss from a system crash was when you lost all of your best jokes.
- It's dark when you drive to and from work, even in the summer.
- You know exactly how many days you've got left until you retire.
- You see a good looking, smart person and you know it must be a visitor.
- Free food left over from meetings is your staple diet.
- You're already late on the assignment you just got.
- Vacation time is something you roll over to next year.
- Your relatives and family describe your job as "works with computers".
- The only reason you recognize your kids is because their pictures are on your desktop.



Don't forget to make your
phone reservation for the
May meeting by **noon** on
May 14!
Call Janet at 303-431-6100

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