

NOVEMBER 2009 MEETING:

The Hollister Bridge at Camp San Luis Obispo

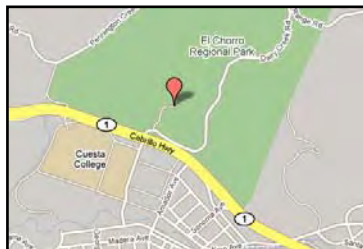
TOPIC:

Please join us on November 19, 2009 at Dairy Creek Golf Course in San Luis Obispo for lunch and announcements followed by a tour of the new Hollister Bridge at Camp San Luis Obispo. The Hollister Bridge is a key component of the western entrance to Camp San Luis Obispo. The project replaced a WWII era timber bridge with a new concrete bridge. Construction started the summer of 2009 with the bridge scheduled to be open the beginning of December.

The program for this lunch will **NOT** be our standard format. Lunch will be served at 12:10 p.m., followed by our monthly announcements at 12:30 p.m. Following the announcements, those who wish to attend the site visit will head over to the Hollister Bridge for the tour and project discussion (directions will be given). Please bring safety gear for the site visit: safety vest, hard hats, and close toed shoes (boots preferred).

LOCATION:

Fairways Restaurant
(at the Dairy Creek Golf Course)
2990 Dairy Creek Road
San Luis Obispo, CA



DATE & TIME:

Thursday, Nov 19th
12:00 pm (Noon)

MENU:

South of the border buffet including fiesta salad, pork Chile Verde, Spanish rice, refried beans, tortillas, beef and chicken fajitas, and churros with iced tea and coffee.

RESERVATIONS:

Please sign up by 1:00 p.m. Friday, November 13, at the Branch web site (www.asceslo.org). Please attend the luncheon if you sign-up – some restaurants will charge the Branch for every seat we reserve, regardless of the actual attendance. If you have specific dietary restrictions or have questions, please contact Liz Moody at (805) 704-7912 or by email at LizM@cannoncorp.us. The cost is \$20 for members or guests and \$10 for student members.

Visit the ASCE National Website at
www.ASCE.org

PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE:

Improving Our Newsletter

Something I'd like to focus on during my presidency is communication and becoming more of a community. Without knowing where we stand on this subject, it would be hard for me to espouse what action we need to take to improve. So, at the October ASCE Branch meeting I distributed a survey to receive feedback on our main form of written communication: our Branch Newsletter. The purpose of the survey was to gain a better understanding of its success: how many members read it, how many members get it, how many members even know we have one? In addition, the survey asked to provide details on readership: why you are or aren't reading it and if there are any suggestions for improvement.

I'm pleased to say I received some very good input and consider the survey successful. Of the 42 meeting attendees, I received 24 completed survey stubs (that's 17.71 percent more successful than the 2009 local election poll results – nice work). Here's what we can improve: method of distribution, awareness, and information provided. One suggestion is to include an article (or two) regarding current local projects.

Great suggestion! We have many active projects throughout San Luis Obispo County. Some very visible projects (the recent Highway 101 Improvements, Tank Farm Road Sewer, Broad Street Improvements, etc.) as well as some not so visible (Nacimiento Waterline, Avila Pedestrian Path). There is so much going on around us, it seems only natural to include articles about these projects in our newsletter; sometimes the obvious needs to be pointed out. Starting in next month's newsletter we will feature a local project that we hope catches your interest.

I hope to continue to get your input regarding our Branch and how we can make it even better. More surveys yet to come!

On another note: 2010 is a big year for our Branch. Not only is it our 50th Anniversary, but we also have the opportunity to get involved with our student chapter during the 2010 National Concrete Canoe Competition – hosted by Cal Poly. We will be assembling a committee to organize an event for the Branches 50th Anniversary. If you are interested and would like to get involved, please e-mail me at jeffs@cannoncorp.us.

Thanks.

~ Jeff Spannbauer

MEET THE MEMBER - DALE RAMEY, PE*Where was your high school reunion?*

If you're like me, when your high school reunion came around, you were less than enthusiastic about attending. But, what if your high school reunion was in Germany? Would that change your mind? For this month's meet the member, it did. I'm proud to introduce, Dale Ramey as this month's Meet the Member.

Dale was born in Ohio, but his father's career in the Air Force caused his family to move around the south and southwest and eventually to Germany during his high school years. I asked Dale if he enjoyed living and going to school in Germany, and he said he did, but he never fully learned to speak German. He thinks the problem was that he never learned to think in German, which kept him from fully mastering the language. He traveled back to Germany for his 40th high school reunion and was surprised with how much German he still remembered.

After high school, Dale moved back to the US and began studying at Napa Community College in California. During his college years, he worked in the engineering field as a technician and later transferred to UC Davis where he finished up his Bachelors degree.

After graduating and accepting a job with Murray McCormick Environmental Group, Dale and his wife Marie were transferred to Houston Texas. He stayed



in Texas for over 13 years, working for multiple companies including a partnership with a private consulting firm working as a district engineer for several municipal utility districts. The work included subdivision design, potable water supply, waste water treatment, and drainage systems. Engineers in this area of work were called MUD engineers. Dale also received his Class "A" Wastewater Treatment and Water Supply License for Texas and passed his PE exam. He is now licensed in both California as a Professional Engineer, and in Texas as both a Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor. Dale then moved to California where he began working as a City Engineer and Director of Public Works for the City of Ripon, California. Twenty years after getting his bachelors degree, Dale then went to CSU Stanislaus and received his Master's degree in Public Administration.

While on a trip to drop his son off at college at CSU San Diego, Dale and Marie decided to stop by the central coast for a visit. They loved San Luis Obispo so much that they decided to move here. They came to the central coast in 2000 and Dale began working for RRM Design Group. After two years with RRM, Dale then started working as the Transportation Project Engineer for San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works. One of Dale's current projects is the Willow Road Extension and Highway 101 Interchange project in Nipomo. This project is a multi-year, multi-million dollar project that includes 2.5 miles of roadway and a tight diamond interchange at Hwy 101. When asked what the hardest part of the project is, Dale replied, "The hardest part of the project is the project development and getting it to construction. Construction is the easy part."

While talking with Dale, I was surprised to learn that he is also a licensed Pilot. Dale received his pilot's license back in 1966, and Dale and his wife both enjoy flying in their 1958 Piper Pacer airplane. Dale is also in the process of building a Cozy Mark 4 airplane; 4 passenger, 210 mph.. Speaking of family, Dale's wife Marie soloed on her 16th birthday. They celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary this year. Congratulations Dale and Marie! They also have 3 children, two sons and a daughter.

Dale has been a member of ASCE since 1974 and was recently inducted as a Life-Time ASCE Member. When asked, what the greatest benefit to being an ASCE member was to him, he said keeping up to date in the industry and on the local community and having access to continuing education opportunities. I also asked Dale if he had some words of wisdom for the young engineers in our community, and he said to be patient, continue your education, and to move into your right brain from time to time.

Dale is an extremely knowledgeable and outgoing engineer who strongly believes in the importance of continuing education. It was a pleasure interviewing and getting to know him. Thank you Dale for being this month's Meet the Member.

~ Anthony J. Severy

CAL POLY STUDENT CHAPTER

Community Service Opportunity - Build an Engineer Day

When: Saturday November 14th, all day
Where: Cal Poly Campus, Building 13 room 118
What: Come and teach local youngsters about Civil Engineering and give them some hands on experience with a short activity
Who: Everyone is welcome, this is a great way to give back and have fun doing it.

E-mail Roshani Patel for more information or to sign up for either of the service events at rjpatel@calpoly.edu.

ATTENTION ASCE ADVERTISERS!

Advertising in the monthly newsletter and on our web site provides you with valuable recognition in the local civil engineering community. Advertising in the Branch Newsletter is on a calendar year basis. It is time to renew or begin your newsletter advertisement for next year. The fee to place a business card ad is \$100 per year. For returning advertisers, payment must be received by January 1st to continue your participation in the program. If you would like to advertise next year, please provide a check for \$100 made payable to ASCE Central Coast Branch and mail to:

Sylas S Cranor
 ASCE Newsletter Editor
 1310 Marsh Street
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

If you have any questions regarding advertising in the Branch Newsletter, please feel free to contact Sylas Cranor at (805) 781-5260 or at scrantor@co.slo.ca.us. Once again, thank you for your support.

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM CORNER

How about a chance to unwind with some of your favorite ASCE friends? We invite any ASCE members (and your friends) to meet up for drinks and some gripping conversations about infrastructure report cards, seismic code, and ... oh, wait, I doubt we will cover those topics. Regardless, I assure you that this is a great chance to enjoy a bit of SLO's night life, meet local professionals and students, and just have a great time! (Don't forget that Farmer's Market takes place just a block away from 6:00 – 9:00 pm that night.)

Where? Black Sheep, 1117 Chorro Street
 San Luis Obispo
 (in the backyard or wherever seats are available)
When? Thursday, November 19, 2009, 7:00 p.m. - ???

For more information on this social or if you have ideas for future events, please contact Carolyn Berg at (949) 422-3616 or ckberg2@gmail.com.

OTHER LOCAL EVENTS

If you have an event you would like posted at no cost, contact Syllas Cranor at 781-5260 or at scrantor@co.slo.ca.us.

The local chapter of the **American Public Works Association** meets on the second Wednesday of the month, every other month. For details, contact Jay Walter at jwalter@slocity.org.

The Central Coast Branch of the **California Land Surveyors Association** usually meets the second Thursday of each month. Contact Rochelle Vierra at 549-3461 or Rochelle_Vierra@dot.ca.gov for more information.

Cal Poly's **Society of Civil Engineers (SCE)** welcomes local professionals to its regular meetings held alternate Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in Room 13-118. For further information, contact Kari Wagner (kariw@WallaceGroup.us) or Jeff Spannbaauer (jeffs@cannonassoc.com).

The Central Coast Chapter of the **International Code Council** meets the first Thursday of the month at Margie's Dinner. Contact Sylvia Aldana at 781-4671 or saldana@co.slo.ca.us for information.

The **American Institute of Architects** meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Vista Grande Restaurant (Cal Poly). For information, call Jeff Emrick at 549-8658.

Engineers Without Borders meets on the second Wednesday of each month at Noon. For further information, contact an EWB Officer at ewb.slo@gmail.com.

The **Central Coast Geological Society** meets every second Tuesday. For information, contact Lou Blanck at 542-4626.

2009-10 ASCE-SLO BRANCH OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Jeff Spannbaauer - Cannon	544-7407 jeffs@cannonassoc.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Andrew Descary	772-7299 descary@gmail.com
PRESIDENT-ELECT	Rob Down - Earth Systems Pacific	544-3276 rdown@earthsys.com
HISTORIAN	Valerie Huff - Wallace Group	925-2345 valerieh@wallacegroup.us
TREASURER	Liz Moody - Cannon	544-7407 lizm@cannoncorp.us
SECRETARY	Tom Zehnder - Wallace Group	544-4011 tomz@wallacegroup.us
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Sylas Cranor - County of San Luis Obispo	781-5260 scrantor@co.slo.ca.us
ASSISTANT EDITOR	Anthony Severy - Cannon	544-7407 anthonyss@cannonassoc.com
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR	Steve Tanaka - Wallace Group	544-4011 stevent@wallacegroup.us
WEBMASTER	Dan Parker-King - RRM Design Group	543-1794 dparkerking@rrmdesign.com
PAST-PRESIDENT	Courtney Howard - County of San Luis Obispo	781-1016 choward@co.slo.ca.us
PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR	Carolyn Berg - County of San Luis Obispo	781-5536 cberg@co.slo.ca.us
STUDENT CHAPTER PRESIDENT	Steve Gurske - Cal Poly, SLO	(925) 786-3264 sgurske@calpoly.edu

Visit ASCE-SLO at www.ASCESLO.org

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY



WALLACE GROUP
805 544-4011
www.wallacegroup.us

CIVIL ENGINEERING
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
PLANNING
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION
SURVEYING / GIS SOLUTIONS
WATER RESOURCES

**BEST FIRMS TO WORK FOR
CE NEWS • TOP 50 • 2007**



Cannon
*Relentless Pursuit of the
Elegant Solution*

1050 Southwood Dr.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Tel: 805.544.7407
Fax: 805.544.3863
www.CannonCorp.us

Since 1976
Civil Engineering
Public Infrastructure
Land Development
Education
Energy
Survey & Mapping
Aerospace/Defense

P: (805) 543-1794 | www.rrmdesign.com



rrm design group
creating environments people enjoy®

Community | Civic & Public Safety | Education | Recreation | Urban
architects | engineers | landscape architects | planners | surveyors



RICK
ENGINEERING COMPANY
711 Tank Farm Road
Suite 110
San Luis Obispo
California 93401
Tel: 805.544.0707
Fax: 805.544.2052
www.rickengineering.com

Civil Engineering
Transportation & Traffic
Surveying & Mapping
Water Resources
Urban Design & Planning
Landscape Architecture
Redevelopment
GIS Services
Photogrammetry



Kennedy/Jenks Consultants
Engineers & Scientists




Earth Systems Pacific

Soils Investigations
Geotechnical Engineering
Environmental Services

Engineering Geology
Materials Testing
Construction Observation

Website: www.earthsystems.com email: esc@earthsys.com

San Luis Obispo Paso Robles Lompoc Santa Maria
(805) 544-3276 (805) 238-6308 (805) 737-9755 (805) 928-2991



RBF
CONSULTING

PLANNING • DESIGN • CONSTRUCTION

Providing innovative, timely and cost effective
solutions to today's design challenges through
personalized client service **www.RBF.com**

Offices located throughout California, Arizona and Nevada • 800-479-3808



Civil 3D Reminders

<http://Blog.Civil3DReminders.com>

A Local Source for Civil 3D Information

Christopher Fugitt, P.E.
Christopher@Civil3DReminders.com



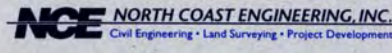
**Garing Taylor
& Associates**

Jeffrey J. Emrick, P.E., AIA
Chief Executive Officer

Civil Engineering
Surveying
Project Development

141 South Elm Street
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
805/489-1321
Fax 805/489-6723

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS
San Luis Obispo / Central Coast Branch
1310 Marsh Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



NCE NORTH COAST ENGINEERING, INC.
Civil Engineering • Land Surveying • Project Development

Steven J. Sylvester, P.E.
President
RCE 29743

725 Creston Road, Suite B
Paso Robles, CA 93446
(805) 239-3127

Cambria: (805) 927-8651
FAX: (805) 239-0758
steve@northcoastengineering.com

~ PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD ~

Contact Syllas Cranor @ 781-5260
or scrantor@co.slo.ca.us