

Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists

Inland Empire Chapter Southern California Section

www.aegsc.org/chapters/inlandempire

August 6, 2009 Vol. 5, No. 8

AEG Inland Empire Chapter August Monthly Meeting

Dr. Tom Perina

"Groundwater Contamination at the Omega Chemical Corporation Superfund Site, Los Angeles County"

Wednesday, August 19, 2009

4:00 – 4:57	Board of Directors	Bar
5:00 – 6:20	Social	Banquet Room
6:20 – 7:20	Dinner	Banquet Room
7:30 - 8:30	Speaker Presentation	Banquet Room
<u>Location</u>		

Cask n' Cleaver Restaurant, Riverside, CA

(Meeting Cost \$26- \$34)

(Fund-raising donation suggested is \$5.00, or more)

(RSVP/Directions on page 4)

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This Month's Speaker:

Dr. Tom Perina

CH2MHill, Riverside, CA

Abstract & Bio to follow in updated newsletter

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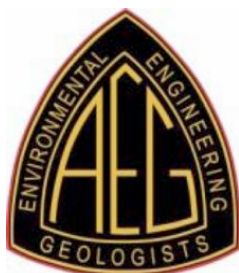
Membership Chairman
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Past Presidents; Frank Jordan,
2005; Gary Wallace, 2006; Rick
Gundry, 2007, Mike Cook, 2008.

The AEG Inland Empire Chapter
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more information visit the
Chapter website:
<http://www.aegsc.org/chapters/inlandempire>.

Submittals: Deadline, 28th of the
month. Employment notices, job
position announcements, and
advertisements can be posted for
a minimal fee. *Newsletter*
circulation about 170 in greater
inland areas of southern
California, and elsewhere.

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**INLAND
EMPIRE
CHAPTER**

AEG INLAND EMPIRE CHAPTER

Chair's Message

August 2009

The **July Meeting** for the Inland Empire Chapter was held at the Western Center for Archaeology and Paleontology located near the Diamond Valley Reservoir in Hemet, CA. (Thanks to Secretary Dave Gaddie for helping write this meeting summary). The meeting was preceded by a "behind the scenes" tour of the facilities for all the early arrivals. Assistant Director Dr. Paisley Cato led the tour and took us through the repository and preparation areas enabling us to see the extent of this wonderful facility and gain an appreciation of the procedures involved in the preparation of materials for cataloging, storage and display. Long needed in this part of southern California, the facility will ensure that there is a local repository for significant finds in the region and provide the much needed space to store these finds for future study and display. A wonderful opportunity to view our "paleo-history"! Subsequent to the tour, a short chapter meeting was held to discuss recent happenings within the Chapter and the Section. It was discussed that there might be a CD produced of the course offerings to be provided to AEG members at a small fee.

The attendees for the meeting included: **Kerry Cato** (Chapter chair) and his wife Paisley (Assistant Director of the Western Center and our tour guide and hostess), **Frank Jordan** (Vice Chair-North) and his grandson Ethan (who *really* enjoyed the tour!!), **Ernie Roumelis** (Treasurer) and his guest Tyler Prim, **Dave Gaddie** (Secretary), **Mike Cook**, **Austin Marshall**, **Mark Spykerman** (Field Trip Committee Chair), **Debbie Kunath**, **Lisa Battiatto**, **Doug Johnston** and our guest speaker **Woody Higdon**, of Geo-Tech Imagery Intl.

We were treated to an enlightening talk on the "ins and outs" of aerial photography that included many of **Woody Higdon's** wonderful photos all centered around the topic, "**Digital Aerial Photography, GIS, and the Mt. Soledad Landslides.**" He provided all who attended with a plethora of information about how to obtain and use/improve/enhance available air photos. His presentation centered around photos that he had produced/enhanced relative to the recent Soledad Mountain Landslide in the La Jolla area of San Diego County. He showed us how to utilize historic air photos in conjunction with newer pictures to allow the viewer to construct better models of the observed phenomena and highlight features often overlooked in the past which have a bearing on what is occurring today. Perhaps as we were taught in school that, "the past is the key to the present," although these photos were not in the geologic past as we generally view it. However, when dealing with human interactions with potential geologic hazards, the recent past is quite important, especially when we as geologists may not have recognized these areas as potential geo-hazards as recently as 50 to 60 years ago. We all learned methods

Pictures from July Meeting
(Photos by Kerry Cato).



Woody Higdon addressing the Chapter at the Western Center for Archaeology & Paleontology



Woody's interactive presentation showed how the use aerial photos can be enhanced using GIS software.



Woody answering questions as Austin Marshall (L) and Mark Spykerman (R) look on.

Of viewing, copying and enhancing older air photos, including ways to geo-reference them to more recent photos. This allows the overlaying of the photography with older natural topography onto the photography with the recent development. Clearly this becomes quite important in determining whether the currently observed landslides resulted from: previously present, but unrecognized slides; construction defects; the introduction of anthropogenic water; or some other cause. These questions become quite important in our current litigious society as our courts try to determine liability for the damages.

Our upcoming August meeting will feature Dr. Tom Perina speaking on groundwater contamination and cleanup at The Omega Chemical superfund site in Los Angeles County. Our apologies for not having the abstract and speaker bio included with this edition of the newsletter. An updated version will be distributed when the information is available.

Finally in a sobering note as this report is written, we heard at the end of July 23 that as part of the State of California's budget compromise, the **California Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists (BGG)** was voted out of existence by the State Senate. The proposal is to combine functions of the BGG with the Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BORPELS). The Governor has signed this bill. This has been a long process that those of us in California have been observing and commenting on for many years, and no doubt this is not the end of proposed changes. Although BORPELS will inherit professional geologists and geophysicists, it does not have a political mandate to include geo-representation on its board, nor are the details of the merger/absorption available at this time. The deed should be official 90 days after the governor signed the bill into law [estimated around October 1]. It is a stark reminder for Professionals of any discipline that the public and elected officials view our status (via licensing) not as a given, but as something that must be constantly earned.

Finally, and wanting to end this column on a high note, it is with with pleasure that I announce the results of the Chapter's Officer Election. Your new officers for the 2009-2010 year are: **Ernie Roumelis**, Chair; **Doug Johnston**, Vice Chair South; **Debbie Kunath**, Vice Chair North; **Frank Jordan**, Secretary; and **Dave Gaddie**, Treasurer. Congratulations to the NEW OFFICERS! This is a very capable group of professionals that will lead the Chapter into the next decade. We will have an officer's meeting prior to the August Meeting and the new officers will be installed at the next Chapter meeting that will occur in October.

See you at the Cask n' Cleaver in Riverside, CA on August 19.

Kerry Cato, Chapter Chair

Future AEG Inland Chapter Meetings

September - NO Chapter Meeting,
National Meeting at Lake Tahoe, CA

October - - Arrangements in progress

November – **Stephen Testa**, State Mining & Geology
Board,
*"We Don't Need No Stinking Badges: the relevancy of
professional geology registration in today's regulatory
climate"*, Temecula or Murrieta

Wednesday August 19 Chapter Meeting Details and Location

RSVP REQUIRED:

- Advance RSVP required by Monday August 17, 2009
- E-Mail: akwgeotechnical@verizon.net

Meal – order one of 4 entrees

- Cost: Professionals = \$26 - \$34 (-See below)
Students + \$10 (with Student ID)

• Entree Selection:

- Charbroiled Teriyaki Chicken \$26
- Famous 8 oz. Top Sirloin \$30
- Charbroiled Salmon \$32
- Slow Roasted Prime Rib \$34

Includes one of nine sides and tea, coffee or soft drink
Cost includes tax and gratuity with private banquet room.
Bar Available (No Host)

Location:

Cask n' Cleaver Steakhouse
1333 University Ave, Riverside, CA
(951)682-4580

Professionals

Practice

& The Public

