

SOCIETY OF EXPLOSIVES ENGINEERS - GOLDEN WEST CHAPTERSPRING NEWSLETTER - APRIL 1990FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

As we blast into a new year, The Golden West Chapter is standing tall within the Society of Explosives Engineers.

Attending the 1990 Conference in Orlando, Florida gave me the opportunity to see the Society at work, and our Chapter is among the best when it comes to membership, attendance, programs, and organization.

It also gave me the opportunity to experience a resource to our industry that is second to none. In fifteen minutes I accessed more information than I had in the last fifteen months.

This year I would like to see more information available to all of our Chapter members, and I believe this newsletter will be the ticket. Our Vice President, Dick Love, has put together this publication to serve that need.

Please take a look at our schedule for the year and mark the dates on your calendar.

See you there.

Ben DiDuca
President

UPDATE: CAL-OSHA 50 FT. LIMIT

Restriction on Loading Explosives (50 ft. limit) at Highway Construction Projects.

On March 15, 1990, the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board held a public hearing to receive comments on a proposal to modify Section 1567(c) of the Construction Safety Standards. This Section mandates that holes cannot be loaded while traffic or unnecessary personnel are within 50 feet of the hole being loaded.

The proposal would allow relief under unusual circumstances where the 50 foot minimum distance cannot be maintained. To obtain this relief, the contractor must submit an alternate loading plan to CAL-OSHA that contains (as a minimum) the following elements:

1. Only low-sensitivity explosives shall be used.
2. Only initiation systems which cannot be affected by stray current or RF energy shall be used.
3. A lightning detection system and written plan of action shall be provided. (A more specific plan is listed in the proposal.)
4. Barriers, traffic control systems or natural terrain barriers shall be utilized to prevent encroachment by vehicular traffic.

This alternate loading plan is to be submitted 30 days prior to commencement of the work. Notice of approval/disapproval will be given by CAL-OSHA within 15 days of receipt of the application.

(In emergency situations, where work has already commenced, CAL-OSHA may shorten the 30 day notification requirement.)

The Standards Board took the matter under advisement, and CAL-OSHA's legal personnel will review the proposal.

Wes Bender

16th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, ORLANDO, FLORIDA

The Society of Explosives Engineers 1990 Conference was the largest ever. There were a total of 886 attendees plus 154 spouses for a total registration of 1040. This represented an increase of approximately 25% over the 1989 Conference in New Orleans. 257 delegates were from outside the U.S. In all, 44 countries were represented. Fifty seven companies had exhibit booths to display their products and services.

Forty nine papers were presented during the Conference and the Research Symposium. The entire program was well received. The Proceedings are scheduled to be published in early April.

A survey of participants at the Conference indicated that approximately 85% felt the Conference should remain in the sun belt and that January/February was the best time of year for the Conference. 48% thought the overall Conference was too long.

The 1991 Conference will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The dates will be February 3rd through February 8th. Currently, two workshops are scheduled. One will address controlled blasting techniques in open pit mining. The other will address various aspects of blast vibration. A call for papers for the 1991 Conference has already gone out. A second will be mailed to all members shortly.

Wes Bender

MORE NEWS FROM ORLANDO

Our Golden West Chapter was well represented at the 16th Annual Conference on Explosives and Blasting Technique and 6th Annual Research Symposium in Orlando, Florida in February. This is the S.E.E.'s annual convention and the opulent Stouffer's Orlando Resort provided the Conference facilities and rooms.

We enjoyed five days of technical papers ranging from Burden Velocity Analysis to Magazine Regulations. The Research Symposium occupied the final day and a half and the group of some 800 who attended had thinned a bit by then.

Our Chapter did a fine job with four papers presented by Dale Nies, Ben DiDuca, James Gordon, Roger Day and myself.

The exhibit hall with displays by the many vendors and manufacturers presented a great opportunity to catch up on new state of the art technology.

With next years Conference in Las Vegas, hopefully it will be feasible for more California Blasters to attend. Its a good investment for anyone that handles explosives on a regular basis.

Gordon Coleman

PAST DINNER/MEETING

At our last meeting on Saturday February 17, 1990 attendance was down due to a severe winter storm that arrived on the previous Thursday. A large amount of snow in the foothills presented a problem for many members who normally attend, but we still had a good turn out. We have moved back to Charley Brown's in Sacramento with the larger, quieter meeting room and better service that everyone approved of. After the social hour and a good dinner Chapter President Ben DiDuca introduced Mr. John Floyd of Blast Dynamics Inc. Mr. Floyd began by describing how Blast Dynamics Inc. can help companies that are experiencing vibration and air blast problems. By using the PhotoSeis technique of high speed photography and digital seismographs he explained how this information was used to determine the source of high vibration and air blast levels. While showing the films, he described how the high speed film and the digital seismograph recordings were synchronized and recorded together onto a standard video format for analysis. Once the recorded wave form has been combined with the high speed film he explained, vibration and air blast analysis could be completed with a better understanding of the sources involved. Mr. Floyd concluded by saying that when accurately determining the source of the problem with this technique many operations can control these problems without sacrificing performance. In addition to the excellent presentation by Mr. Floyd, Chapter reports were given by our new President Ben DiDuca as to the direction he would like to see the Chapter take this year, and the goals he would like the Chapter to achieve. Secretary Wes Bender read the minutes from the last Directors meeting and the General Business meeting in December. Our Treasurer Gordon Coleman reported on our current financial status and gave a brief report on the Conference in Orlando which he attended as the Chapter Representative.

Dick Love

NEXT MEETING, MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our next Chapter meeting will be held at Charley Brown's in Sacramento on April 21, 1990. Be sure to sign up early and plan to bring a guest or a potential member. Further details about our program and guest speaker will be included with the menu and prices on the next Chapter Meeting Mailer. Bring your business card to the meeting and leave it with the member at the door if you would like to be included on the sponsor page of our next newsletter. **SUPPORT YOUR CHAPTER, plan to attend.**

CALL FOR PAPERS 1991

The Society of Explosives Engineers 17th Annual Conference on Explosives and Blasting Technique will be held at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada February 3-8, 1991. Any members who would like to present a paper at the Conference must remember these important dates. July 15, 1990 is the last day for submitting abstracts. September 1, 1990 is the notification date of paper acceptance. December 1, 1990 is the final day for submitting your completed papers. If you have an idea on a current or finished project and would like to be considered for Chapter sponsorship contact a Chapter Officer about details. Expenses up to \$1000.00 can be reimbursed to the member if their work is chosen as the Chapter sponsored paper. With this Conference being closer to California we hope more of our members will be able to attend. For a copy of the Call For Papers contact Dick Love.

UPDATE; KANSAS CITY EXPLOSION NOVEMBER 1988

On November 29, 1988, six firefighters were killed in Kansas City while they were battling a blaze at a construction site where explosives were stored. (As it turns out, the fire had been set by a youth who was attempting to cover up a theft.) In January of this year, two people were convicted of crimes related to the explosion. The President and the Blasting Supervisor of the drilling and blasting company on the site were convicted of three felony counts as follows; (1) Failure to notify B.A.T.F. of the acquisition of additional storage magazines; (2) Violation of the Table of Distances with respect to the storage of 50,000 lbs; and (3) Violation of the Table of Distances with respect to storage of 1500 lbs too close to a public highway. Both were acquitted of a fourth count of leaving a sparking tool (sledge hammer) in the storage magazine. Sentencing was scheduled for late February, however both men have appealed the conviction.

CHAPTER NEWS

Members: We want to hear from you.

This is your Chapter and we would like to know if something interesting is taking place around the area. We want to provide a forum for the exchange of information for our members, and would like to hear about any special or exciting events. Let us know about problems you have solved and how this may help others. Send in a story or history of a project you were involved in. Have you moved? Send us your new address and phone number. All articles and information submitted will be considered for printing but may not be included until subsequent issues. Any material considered inappropriate will not be printed. Authors of articles used will be notified in advance of the next issue.

I would like to thank all the people who contributed material and offered advice to help get this newsletter out on time.

Editor