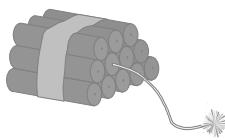


# The Primer



*Newsletter of the Golden West Chapter, International Society of Explosives Engineers  
23633 Brewster Drive, Columbia, CA 95310*

Volume 23

**Fall 2012**

Issue 3

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*The Primer is published  
four times per year  
on the web site of the  
Golden West Chapter  
of the ISEE:*

[www.iseegoldenwest.org](http://www.iseegoldenwest.org)

*Articles may be submitted to:*

*Mike Burneson - editor  
P O Box 2540  
Napa, CA 94558*

*or*

*mburneson@syar.com*

## ***President's Message...***

Hey Members,

I'm here to report that we are 0 for 2 so far if you were scoring our membership participation to our scheduled activities. Due to lack of interest or need, we cancelled our scheduled MSHA 8 hour refresher. Our board members / Trainers Jerry Fulgum and Mike Burneson even offered to put on a class for anyone interested. I also offered our company break room if needed. No takers. We had to cancel our annual salmon fishing trip because we only had 8 members signed up, three of which were board members. We needed at least 30 and we had some vendors and sponsors willing to help fill the board. Not enough. That was a sad day and tough for me to make that call because I was really looking forward to it because of the great salmon recovery that was expected this year. As I was getting ready to cancel my RV spot at the Porto Bodega RV Park, I got a call from Mike Burneson. He came up with plan B, and at no cost to the chapter. He said, "I'll take you and Brad out in my boat and we will catch fish". So it was to be. Captain Burneson and his best buddy (and very skilled driver, and deck hand, Bill) took us out on not one, but two days of the best salmon fishing that we have had in years. Not only were we happy, our wives had a ball in all the little shops in the area. Once again, Thanks Mike and Bill! Oh by the way Mike, I have not received any Over Seas calls from the seals cruising the marina in regards to my cell phone now being in their domain. I know you were concerned about that! So that leaves one more activity.

Continued on page 2

## The Primer

Presidents message.... continued

**We will be holding a Picnic at Pioneer Park on Saturday Sept. 15th**

Why pioneer park you might ask? Well, I have two reasons:

1. The historical significance. A lot of blasting, and digging for gold was done in these hills of Nevada City.
2. Right down the road in Cirino's Bar & Grill on Broad Street in Nevada City our chapter was born by Wes Bender & Dale Nies. It just made perfect sense to gather our chapter in this historic setting. I hope you all feel the same and join us at the final activity of the year. **This event is no cost to members. Free food and Drink.**  
(See flyer pg 4)

My wife and I had a really nice road trip on July 28th. That started at Pioneer Park in Nevada City. The spot should work well for us. They have a nice Horse Shoe pit. The area seemed to be well shaded and there is a small "babbling brook" in the back.



Enjoy your Newsletter and the rest of your summer!

Mike Chiurato

### Editor's Notes....

This Fall edition of the Primer has information on page 4 regarding our members appreciation **BBQ on September 15th at Pioneer Park** in Nevada City. You should put this on your **CALENDAR NOW!** You will not want to miss this BBQ. Come spend the day in the area and have some fun.

Last Call for Scholarship Applications. Deadline August 31st, See flyer page 5. Come on people. We are trying to help some young person with the costs associated with college. One of you must have a family member that needs some CASH.

I would like to thank our past president Sandy Figures for donating the proceeding from the 38th Conference on Explosives & Blasting to our chapter library.

I was reading the ISEE Journal of Explosives Engineers article Annual Report from the president and noticed that a new 18th edition of the blasters handbook is available. I will purchase a copy and place it in the chapter library. Please be reminded that anyone that needs reference material may contact me and I will always try to send you any material that is requested.

Thousands enjoyed the 27th Annual Elko Mine Expo June 6-8.

Nevada's Chief Economist Says Mining Industry Shows Strongest Employment Gains among all Nevada industries.

Please take the time to send me any thing you would like to see in your newsletter.

Lake Herman Mike Live @ the Rock

Editor's notes continued on page 10

## The Primer

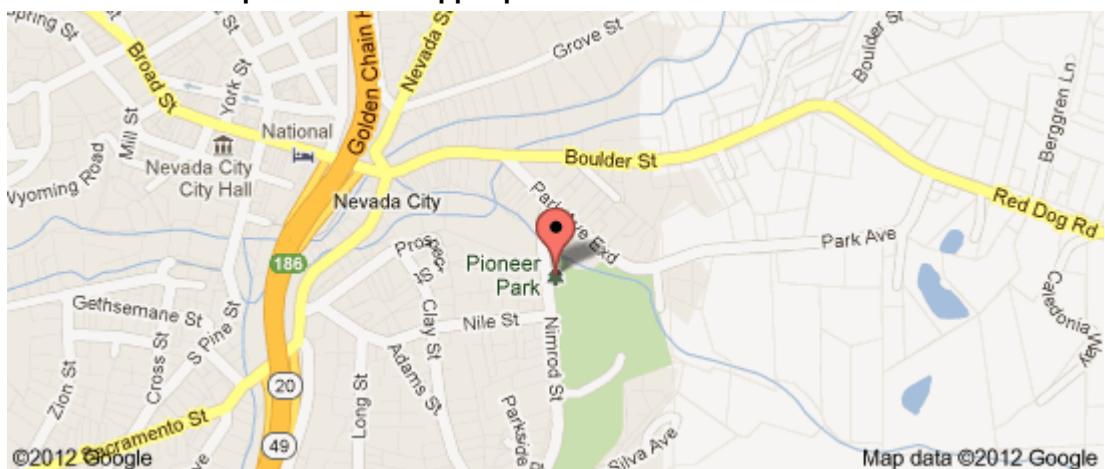
**The Golden West Chapter of the International Society of Explosives Engineers is having a Members Appreciation BBQ / Picnic / Games / CASH Prizes**

**When: Saturday, September 15, 2012 – 12 o'clock to 4 PM**

**This event is free to all members. Non members \$15.00**

**Where: Pioneer Park 423 Nimrod St., Nevada City 95959**

The location at the park is called Upper picnic area.



**Menu: Tri Tip, Pork Ribs, Chicken, Salads, Beans, Wine Beer and Sodas. Yes we will have desert. Ice Cream & Cake.**

**Registration: Please contact Mike Chiurato at 916-645-3377 by August 31<sup>st</sup>. This will allow us to purchase the food and drinks for those that are ready for a good time.**

**The Party starts at 12 o'clock**

## **Call for Scholarship application Starting June 1, 2012**

**Scholarship Eligibility:** Graduating high school seniors or students already enrolled in college who are sons or daughters of an employee of an Explosives or other industry employing explosives may apply for the scholarship.

**Judging Committee:** Scholarship applications will be reviewed and judged by a panel, including the Chapter Officers and Board and the past President of the GWC or their respective designees

**Application Deadline and Scholarship Presentation:** The scholarship application process will be an Internet-based process. Starting June 1, 2012 applicants will be able to apply via GWC on-line application process at <http://iseegoldenwest.org>.

The deadline for applications is August 31, 2012. The winning applicant will be named by September 30, 2012. The Scholarship will be issued to the winner at five hundred dollars per semester provided the student is considered by the institution as a full time student and maintains a grade point average of 3.0.

For more information, contact Gerald Fulghum 916-481-1421 or at

GRFULGHUM@SBCGLOBAL.NET

To apply for the Scholarship please include these four items:

The completed application.

A letter of recommendation from your industry representative.

A 300 to 500 word statement of your plans for a career in the explosives or aggregate industry;

If you have work experience in the aggregate or explosives industry as a summer employee, an intern or through a cooperative work program, please include one or more recommendations letters from your employer(s).

## **The Primer**

### **From The Presidents desk....**

Many questions are asked of the President on a almost weekly basis. Here is a clip of an email from the ISEE and the responses of the president.

**From:** Fred Grabner

**Sent:** Monday, July 16, 2012 7:12 PM

**To:** mchiurato

**Subject:** ISEE Chapter Development Committee

Mike,

Thank you for your commitment to the Golden West Chapter. I am dropping you a note to inquire how your Chapter is currently doing and to see if you have any questions or comments I might be able to pass on at the next ISEE Board Meeting. By being President of your Chapter you are automatically on the ISEE Chapter Development Committee or a representative from your chapter that you choose, any thoughts you might have would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you again for your time and commitment.

Sincerely,

Fred Grabner

Chair, ISEE Chapter Development Committee

### **Mission of the Chapter Development Committee**

"It shall be the function of the Chapter Development Committee to encourage and foster the prosperity of Chapters. A representative from each Chapter shall serve as a member of the Chapter Development Committee."

The Presidents reply can be read on page 7

### President's reply

Hi Fred,

Thanks for checking in. As for our chapter, we are trying to hang in there. We have a paid membership of about 35. We also have a handful of sponsors that help us out. This is my second year as President and I am committed to keep the Chapter going. However, it is currently people like Mike Burneson(Board member at different times for a total of 9 years and a Past President who recently took on editing of our newsletter as well as being our head chef at our annual crab feed and BBQ), Carey Haughy (secretary for the last 8 years), Jerry Fulghum(Treasurer for the past 11 years) , Wes Bender(Past President,Board member several times, editor of the award winning newsletter for 15 years and who still maintains our website) and past board member and president Bill Warfield who have kept the chapter from going away.

Unlike some others, California has never been among the larger of explosives consuming regions. Our relatively low membership through the years has reflected that. In addition, the current unemployment and financial situation in California has put many of our blasters out of work and has caused at least one blasting contractor to shift his efforts to other types of work. All things considered, we believe we have done well to keep from joining some of the other Chapters that have disappeared. Not all our problems, however, can be attributed to those reasons. Through the years, in spite of our best efforts, a large segment of our membership seems to have lost interest. We had four activities scheduled this year: The first was an MSHA 8 hour refresher training course that included lunch for \$40.00 per person. It was cancelled when insufficient numbers registered. Our Annual Salmon Fishing trip, which had always been a big hit (at least until the salmon fishing season was temporarily halted a few years ago), was scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup>. I needed at least 30 to sign up and I had a few customers and vendors willing to participate. Only 6 members were interested. Three of those were board members. I had to cancel the event. Our next scheduled activity is a BBQ in September. To start off the New Year, coinciding with our annual business meeting, we have our annual crab feed and BBQ scheduled for January.

Continued on page 8

## The Primer

### Reply-continued

It was a big hit last year thanks to our board members, officers and our major sponsor, my employer, for paying for all his employees to attend. We also put a scholarship together for the children of members or people working in the explosives or related industry. We put out the word through our newsletter, on the chapter website and by word of mouth. We're not at the deadline yet for selecting the recipient, but so far no takers.

Thanks again for your inquiry. We are always open to suggestions in how to get more membership participation. I might add that I do carry applications with me and I hand them out at Blasters Safety Seminars and other related functions to try to increase membership, but have met with limited success.

Sincerely,

Mike Chiurato-President  
GWC of the ISEE



The Golden West  
Chapter  
of the  
International  
Society of  
Explosives  
Engineers

Presidents desk continued on page 9

## **From The Presidents Desk continued....**

Recently our president was contacted by one of our members Joe Stack.

He asked us to "Get the word out" in our newsletter in regards to the Western Mining Alliance group.

Here is our presidents response after discussing the request with the Officers and Board of Directors.

Although we sympathize and support your cause, The Chapter, as a technical organization, cannot go too far with opposing or endorsing the views of the Alliance or any other organization. However, we would be inclined to allow a short and non-inflammatory article to be drafted and submitted for our newsletter. As a technical society we should remain and present all the appearances of neutrality in political, government, and regulatory affairs.

Mike Chiurato-President  
GWC of the ISEE

If you are interested in reading about this group look them up on the web.

[www.westernminingalliance.org](http://www.westernminingalliance.org)

## The Primer

### **Editor's notes continued....**

Here is a photo of your president after the plan B chapter event.



This man loves his wife. Next time we will work on him keeping a tight line and his phone in his pocket.

Thank you Wes Bender for your constant support and advice on the daily dealings of the Chapter.

Thank you Jerry Fulghum for your always professional responses to the Mike's many questions.

Congratulations to Rudy L Palacios on your retirement after serving as the head blaster at Syar for more than twenty years. We all wish you the best.



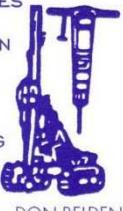
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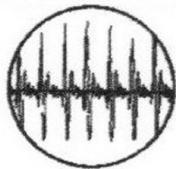
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### Chapter contact information:

President: Mike Chiurato (916) 645-3377

Secretary: Carey Haughy (209) 533-0127, x 23

Treasurer: Gerald Fulghum (916) 481-1421

### Board Members:

Mike Burneson (707) 558-1510

Nick Cunningham (916) 645-3377

### Newsletter Editor:

Mike Burneson (707) 558-1510

## **Fire in the Hole... One Letter Makes A Big Difference**

An Illinois man left the snow-filled streets of Chicago for a vacation in Florida. His wife was on a business trip and was planning to meet him there the next day. When he reached his hotel he decided to send his wife a quick email. Unfortunately, when typing her address, he missed one letter, and his note was directed instead to an elderly preacher's wife whose husband had passed away only the day before. When the grieving widow checked her email, she took one look at the monitor, let out a piercing scream, and fell to the floor in a dead faint. At the sound, her family rushed into the room and saw this note on the screen: Dearest Wife,

**Just got checked in. Everything prepared for your arrival tomorrow. P.S.  
Sure is hot down here.**

### **Chapter Activities - 2012**

MSHA Refresher Training - To be announced	CNX
Ocean Fishing Trip - Bodega Bay	CNX
Barbecue - Pioneer Park, Nevada City, CA	Sept. 15
Annual Dinner Meeting (Mt. Pleasant Hall - Lincoln, CA)	Jan. 12, 2013

### **Publication schedule for *The Primer***

Winter issue - deadline: Dec 3 - posting date: Dec 10