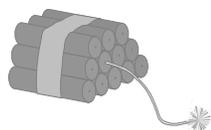
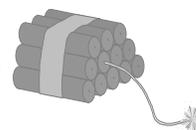


25th Anniversary Issue of



The Primer



Newsletter of the Golden West Chapter, International Society of Explosives Engineers
Alpha Explosives, P.O. Box 310, Lincoln, CA 95648

Volume 26

Spring 2015

Issue 1

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or

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President's Message...

.Hey Members,

What happened to WINTER!! As I'm writing this message I can't believe that we are into Spring and entering our fourth year of drought here in California. Not much we can do if Mother Nature isn't cooperating.

Mother Nature did cooperate during our Annual Business meeting in January. At least Chef Burneson didn't get soaked or freeze to death preparing the huge feast for our dinner meeting. Thanks again Mike & Sue and the rest our board & members for all they contributed to make this annual event such a success. A great raffle was held with member Bruce Townes & Secretary Danniell Edwards keeping busy most of the meeting collecting the cash to help with expenses and to keep the Scholarship fund going. We had a lot of winners.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome new members, Chuck Erickson of J&M Displays and Art Sebren of Sebren Drill & Blast. Welcome guys! I also have to say how wonderful it was to visit with Wes Bender, a founding member and current board member and web master. He made the trip all the way from Arizona to be with us. Another member making a long trip from Southern Cal was Joe Stack. Thanks guys. The 2015 elections were held and Wes Bender returns for another two year term on the board and I will be back as your President for another year. It takes planning and contributions from each of our officers and board members to put on an event such as the business meeting. Thanks to Wes, Jerry Fulghum, Mike Burneson and Danniell Edwards for making it happen.

Continued on next page

The Primer

Presidents Message Continued...

The GWC business meeting is not only a great place to socialize with our fellow members, but it's a great place to learn something new. Our guest speakers were Mark Bracco, a Placer County Sheriff with the Special Operations Unit of Placer County and Lars Johansen, current director of Alpha Explosives. Mark gave us an insight to what it takes to keep the citizens of Placer County safe from the people that like to use explosives as a tool of trade to get what they want. Lars Johansen gave us a bit of a history lesson of the explosives Industry from his perspective as past President of Dyno Nobel and current director of Alpha Explosives with the passing of Brad Langner.

What's next? You got it! Mark your calendars for July 18th! That is the date of the GWC 3rd Annual Wes Bender Scholarship Sporting Clays Competition. This year's shoot will be dedicated to the memory of long time contributing sponsor and member, Brad Langner. This event gets bigger and better every year. By popular demand, Chef Mike Burneson is going to wow your taste buds with a lunch featuring one of Brad's favorites, Beer Basted Brats served with a delightful mix of peppers and caramelized onions on a roll! And of course drinks and the usual side dishes. I just made myself hungry! So check out the attached flyer for details and put together a team of four to participate. You don't shoot? Sign up for lunch and talk BBQ with Mike while you wait for the hungry competitor's to return with their stories of sharp shooting skills. Either way, You will have a great time!

Thanks everyone and have a safe one!

Your President,
Mike Chiurato

Editor's Notes...

This is the 25 anniversary issue of *The Primer*. Congratulations go out to Past President Dick Love for starting the tradition. The name Primer was conceived from a contest in March of 1990. The masthead was not used until the second issue. In this issue you can see the original four page Primer from April of 1990. The Primer was published hard copy and mailed out until 2007 when we started publishing on our web site. I would also like to chime in on the successful business dinner. I truly believe everyone had a great time. I really appreciated all of the help in the kitchen and was very satisfied with the meal we turned out for our members and guests. Thank you Sue B, Mike C, Donna C, Ladd S and Maggie S. you guys and gals were awesome. Thank you J & M Displays West for the terrific sound system you provided. I would like to thank Lars Johansen again for the history refresher lesson. Thank you Mark Bracco for your presentation great job. Check out the fun in this issue from the photos of the business dinner.

Our treasurers report by Gerald Fulghum was so outstanding the members voted to fund another scholarship this year. We are very lucky to have Jerry keeping the books he is the best. In this issue you will see the scholarship application information and you will also find the scholarship fundraiser information scheduled for July 18th. Please get involved in our sporting clay event. We need your support and participation at the Coon Creek Trap & Skeet Club located in Rio Oso. Congratulations to Secretary Danniell Edwards who is doing an outstanding job for the chapter, we appreciate all you do. Mike Burneson was caught totally off guard being presented the lifetime member award by the chapter and was even further surprised by the chapter service award received by the international. It is very much appreciated. Just last week I attended Alpha's blasting refresher and renewed my blasting license for another five years. Gordon Coleman you did a great job.

Continued on next page

The Primer

Editor's Notes...

Mike Chiurato, you and Danniell did a great job on the raffle. Thank you to all of our outstanding sponsors who supported the event: Alpha Explosives, Atlas Copco, Ramos Oil, Riebes Auto Parts, Duncan Automotive, National Fire Systems, Mike & Donna Chiurato and Syar Industries. Thank you to everyone that purchased raffle tickets and 50/50 tickets. It really was a lot of fun and we had some great prizes. The chapter did receive a update from our current scholarship recipient and I have included it in this newsletter below.

-----Original Message-----

From: Holly Haughy

Sent: Monday, February 16, 2015 5:15 PM

To: Mike Chiurato

Subject: Receivement of Scholarship

Hello Mike,

I wanted to inform you that I received the scholarship check from you and the Chapter this past week. I cannot thank you enough for your continuous generosity in supporting my academic goals at UCSB. My mom mentioned the success from some of the Chapter's recent fundraisers and it is so thrilling to hear that another recipient can experience the same support and generosity. From the perspective of a student, your encouragement is motivational in pursuing academic success.

I just finished winter quarter midterms and have a small amount of time to de-stress before finals begin. Between the tests and papers, however, many exciting opportunities are developing! I just signed up for my spring quarter classes and I am now able to take upper division classes. I am very eager for these because they pertain to my specific interests, in comparison to required general education classes. I also just confirmed my participation in the UC Education Abroad Program to study at Lund University in Sweden for the next school year! I'm incredibly excited to study in a new country and expand my cultural horizons!

I hope you are doing well, and I wish the Chapter continued success. Thank you again for the scholarship, I appreciate it very much.

Sincerely,
Holly Haughy

Call for Scholarship application Starting June 1, 2015

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, 2015 applicants will be able to apply via GWC on-line application process at **<http://iseegoldenwest.org>**.

The deadline for applications is August 31, 2015. The winning applicant will be named by September 30, 2015. 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 recommendation letters from your employer(s).

Golden West Chapter Summer Scholarship Fundraiser

When: 8:00 am on Saturday July 18th
Where: The Coon Creek Trap & Skeet Club
5393 Waltz Rd, Rio Oso, CA 95674

Cost: \$100.00 per person

Coon Creek Trap & Skeet Club Located in Lincoln California



The cost is \$100.00 per person.. For that \$100.00, each participant will get 100 shells, a two and a half hour round of sporting clays and lunch. \$25.00 of which will go into the scholarship fund. Those that want to bring RV's can for \$10.00 per night. They get electrical and water. They need to reserve in advance. We can have an early lunch of hot dogs & hamburgers after we shoot. We will hold a 50/50 raffle and give the top gun a gift certificate to Bass Pro Shop. All revenue from this event will go directly to our scholarship fund.

Come on out and support the chapter.

Contact: Mike Chiurato at 916-645-3377 if you plan on attending by July 13, 2015.

Coon Creek offers many different shooting disciplines, from Trap, International Trap sometimes called Olympic Trap, Bunker Trap, Skeet & Sporting Clays.

The Primer

Business Dinner January 2015



Top Left President Mike Chiurato and Wes Bender
all the way from Arizona.



What a great turnout.

The Primer

Business Dinner January 2015



Top Left Guest Speaker Mark Bracco Placer County Sheriff's Office
Top Right Guest Speaker Lars Johansen Director of Alpha Explosives.



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



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Chapter Activities - 2015

Scholarship Fundraiser July 18,2015
Annual Winter Business Meeting
Mt Pleasant Hall- Lincoln- January 23, 2016

Michael Chiurato-President
Danniell Edwards-Secretary
Gerald Fulghum-Treasurer
Wes Bender-Board Member, Web Master
Mike Burneson-Board Member, Editor

Fire in the Hole...

You've all heard of the Air Force's ultra-high- security, super-secret base in Nevada, known simply as "Area 51?"

Well, late one afternoon, the Air Force folks out at Area 51 were very surprised to see a Cessna landing at their "secret" base. They immediately impounded the aircraft and hauled the pilot into an interrogation room.

The pilot's story was that he took off from Vegas, got lost, and spotted the Base just as he was about to run out of fuel.

The Air Force started a full FBI background check on the pilot and held him overnight during the investigation.

By the next day, they were finally convinced that the pilot really was lost and wasn't a spy. They gassed up his airplane, gave him a terrifying "you-did-not-see-a-base" briefing, complete with threats of spending the rest of his life in prison, told him Vegas was that-a-way on such-and-such a heading, and sent him on his way.

The next day, to the total disbelief of the Air Force, the same Cessna showed up again. Once again, the MP's surrounded the plane... only this time there were two people in the plane.

The same pilot jumped out and said, "Do anything you want to me, but my wife is in the plane and you have to tell her where I was last night!"