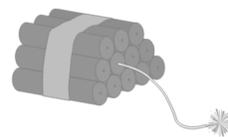


# The Primer



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

Volume 29

Spring 2018

Issue 1

## *In this issue . . .*

**President's Message**  
page 1

**Editors Notes**  
page 2

**Don't Trust Someone  
Else to Finish the Job.**  
by Wes Bender  
pages 3-4

**Business Dinner  
Flyer** page 5

**Advertisers**  
pages 6-9

**Fire in the Hole**  
page 10

*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](mailto:mburneson@syar.com)

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

### **Hey Members, Guests & Supporters,**

This is one last message to make sure all of you have made plans to attend your chapter's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

To celebrate this event we the board and officers invite you to join us for our annual dinner meeting at the Mt Pleasant Hall in Lincoln, CA to acknowledge those members who volunteered and dedicated their time to keep this chapter going. We hope to get as many past members and officers to attend to share their memories of the past as well as a surprise guest or two. We changed up the date of our meeting so that members could attend the ISEE convention in January. I will be attending and hope to share my experiences and industry news with you as well. We will also have the usual chapter business including elections for president, secretary, and board member.

Please read the editors editorial and checkout the flyer for the business dinner. Enjoy the newsletter.

**Be Safe !**

**Your President,**

**Mike Chiurato**

## **The Primer**

### **Editor's Notes...**

This Spring issue of the Primer 2018 is a little early coming out in January of 2018. We felt it was necessary to plug the business dinner a month prior to the event. As this issue comes off the press the International is holding their event that has conflicted with our dinner the last couple of years. We also had problems with Mount Pleasant and the Bucks Stew event wanting the same weekend we wanted. Now that we have moved the meeting to February let's get ready to party.

I strongly suggest you put this on your calendar as this business dinner will be over the top. The board and officers have requested we make this a must attend evening. We have tons of prizes and I promise we will serve a really good meal. We will make every effort to contact all past officers and board members. They will receive dinner at no charge. All members paid in good standing for 2018 will receive dinner at no charge. Yes you can pay your 2018 membership at the door and be entitled to a free dinner. Not just any free dinner but, Crab, Tri Tip, Pasta and Salad. Lots of desserts and ice cream. Did I forget to say free adult beverages. You should mark this down on your calendar right now. Call Mike Chiurato or Mike Burneson and tell us how many you are bringing so I can purchase the correct amount of food. I am pleased to announce to our advertisers that the officers and board members have waived the 2018 advertiser fee for your past support of the Golden West Chapter. After the election we plan on letting the new officers and board review our criteria for the scholarship. We intend to make changes to our process so that we can help fund a student in college. Please enjoy the article by Wes Bender in this edition of the Primer.

# Don't Trust Someone Else to Finish the Job

by Wes Bender

In January of 1985, I got a call from a CalOSHA District Manager about a hazardous situation that his office had uncovered. It seems that they had stumbled across a loaded, unguarded blast at the base of a dam where a hydroelectric project was underway. He had several questions, the first of which was obviously how quickly I could come to the site to inspect and remove the hazard. I told him I could be there the next day.

He met me at the site the next day and we checked out the loaded shot. It consisted of 34 fairly shallow jackhammer holes, ranging from 14" to 24" in depth. According to one of the contractor's employees, each hole had been loaded with approximately 1/3 of a cartridge of explosive. The total amount in the shot was thought to be between 11 and 12 cartridges. The explosive was Hercules HP-414, 1-1/4 x 8. Each charge had a 7 grain detonating cord down line that was tied into a 25 grain detonating cord trunk line. Apparently the shot had been loaded some days earlier and construction workers had been continuing to work adjacent to it. The CalOSHA District Manager asked for my opinion on just how dangerous I thought the situation was. My reply was that, due to the use of detonating cord rather than electric caps, it was unlikely that the shot would have detonated accidentally, but if it did while workmen were in the immediate vicinity, it would have resulted in injuries and quite possibly fatalities due to the shallowness of the holes.

He asked how I thought best to handle the situation. I told him it would be far safer to shoot the shot than to unload all the holes. There was one hole that had either been damaged by equipment or by the previous blast. I chose to unload it because it wouldn't have been useful to shoot it and the exposed explosive was badly deteriorated. The remaining 33 holes would probably remove some of the high bottom that the shot had been intended to break, although my main concern at that point was to eliminate the hazard rather than to remove any rock. Removing explosives from the loaded holes in a blast is somewhat akin to clearing misfires, only on a much larger scale..... If it can be shot safely, it is usually preferable to do that rather than to unload the holes.

After I had obtained two electric detonators, we cleared the area and I shot the trunk line. A post-blast inspection indicated that all holes had detonated, although the breakage indicated that many had not gone off full strength, probably due to the time that they had slept in the wet holes. I was fully prepared to dig out any undetonated explosives, but luckily didn't have to.

So, how did such a situation come to pass? Without naming names, I can tell you a bit about how it happened. A sub-contractor (a licensed blaster) had been engaged to do some secondary blasting to remove some of the rock that had not been removed in the earlier production blasting at the base of the dam.

All but this one blast had been successfully shot. After this last blast was loaded, the blaster realized that he had run out of detonators to initiate the shot. The prime contractor's Project Superintendent indicated that the blaster needn't worry; he would obtain a detonator or two and shoot the shot the next day.

Unfortunately, the blaster took him at his word and packed up his things and left. The Superintendent didn't obtain any detonators and didn't shoot the shot as he had indicated he would. He further compounded the problem by allowing his men to work in the area. In all probability the blast sat unguarded at night too. I don't recall learning just how long the time interval was between the loading of the shot and my detonating it.

If my memory serves me correctly, citations were issued to both the blasting sub-contractor and the prime contractor's Project Superintendent. I don't know if the blaster was fined, but I recall that he had his blaster's license suspended for a time. Obviously, he was guilty of poor judgment. He should have put a guard on the shot, obtained more detonators and finished the job. I'm not sure what happened to the Project Superintendent, although I do know that he left the state before the project was complete. Rumor had it at the time that there was a warrant out for his arrest. This particular project had several other major issues, one of which resulted in a fatality when a crane contacted an overhead power line.

I don't care how tired you are, how late in the day (or evening) it is, if it's the day before Christmas or New Years or if weather or some other factor has interfered with your blasting plans. If you are connected with a blasting operation and you have started the loading process for a blast, you owe it to everybody around you to finish the job and to be as safe as you can possibly be in doing so. If it is impossible to detonate the blast at that time, you must guard it until such time as it can be safely detonated.

I have been involved with two other blasts that required guarding. One was to clear a misfire and we ran out of daylight before it could be made ready to shoot. (A blaster had covered Nonel tubing with blasted rock to prevent flyrock.....then tried to shoot what didn't go off on the first try by hooking it up backwards.... it's a sad story for another time.) The other blast was so large that we couldn't get it all loaded in one day. It was guarded overnight and we finished loading and shot it the next day (see *Blasting to Open Ramelli Pit* on the GW Chapter's website Archive page).

**The Golden West Chapter  
of the  
International Society of Explosives Engineers**

**Annual Business Meeting**

**When:** Saturday, February 24, 2018  
Social Hour 4pm – Dinner 5pm – 6:30pm  
Business Meeting & Elections - 7:00pm  
7:30pm Guest Speakers –  
8:00pm Super Raffle

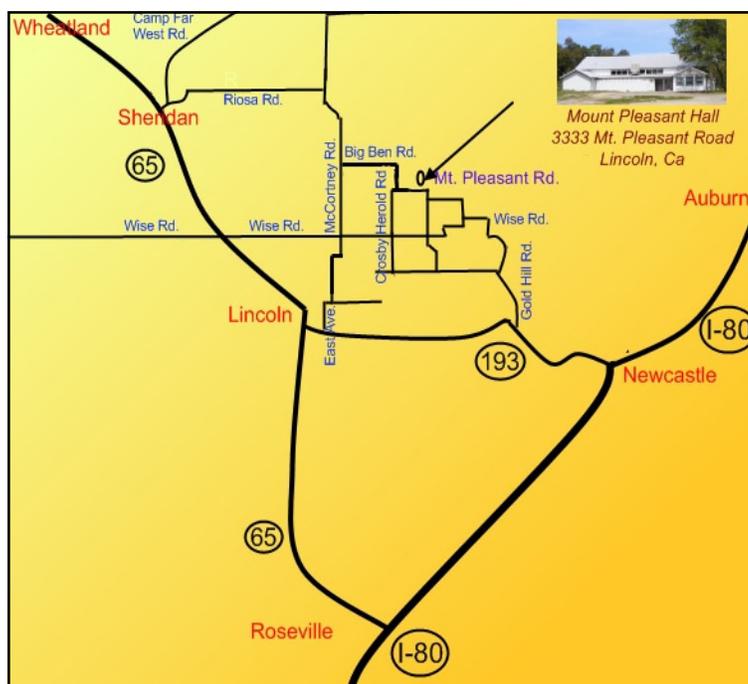
**Where:** Mt. Pleasant Hall  
3333 Mt. Pleasant Rd.  
Lincoln, CA 95648

**Menu:** Crab Feed  
Tri-Tip  
Pasta  
Salad  
Wine, Beer and Sodas  
served with dinner

**Cost:** All past officers and Board  
Members with a guest or significant  
other **NO CHARGE**

All Members Paid In 2018: \$ FREE  
Guests: \$30.00

Free to New Members  
(\$25.00 dues are payable on  
joining.)



**Registration:** Please make your reservations with Mike Chiurato at (916) 719-4507  
or e-mail to: [mchiurato@alphaexplosives.com](mailto:mchiurato@alphaexplosives.com)  
or Mike Burneson at (707) 486-2211 or email to: [mburneson@syar.com](mailto:mburneson@syar.com)  
on or before Friday, February 16, 2018

You can pay your dues at the door but, please don't tell us you are attending and be a no show or  
we will purchase too much food.

Please make checks payable to Golden West Chapter

And mail to: Golden West Chapter  
c/o Alpha Explosives  
P.O. Box 310  
Lincoln, CA. 95648

# The Primer



[www.alphaexplosives.com](http://www.alphaexplosives.com)

**DISTRIBUTOR OF A FULL RANGE OF  
EXPLOSIVES, ACCESSORIES AND  
TRAINING KITS**

**EXPLOSIVES MAGAZINES  
ATFE TYPE 2, 3, & 4**  
*Custom Fabrication Available*

**DRILL AND BLASTING SERVICES,  
Including PROFILING SHOT VIDEOS  
AND SHOT DESIGN**

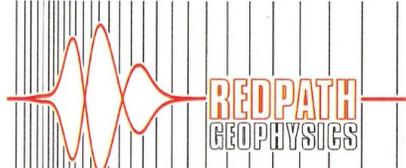
**BULK ANFO, TITAN EMULSION, AND  
SMALL DIAMETER DELIVERY  
AVAILABLE**

**DEALER OF ROCK DRILLS, PARTS AND  
ACCESSORIES**

**3 LOCATIONS**  
LINCOLN, CA (916) 645-3377  
MOJAVE, CA (661) 824-1356  
PLYMOUTH, CA (209) 245-6977




*Major Credit Cards Accepted*



P.O. BOX 540 □ MURPHYS □ CALIFORNIA □ 95247

**BRUCE REDPATH**

209-728-3705      GEOWHIZ@GOLDRUSH.COM

EXPLOSIVE & DRILLING SERVICES



SPECIALIZING IN  
DRILLING  
BLASTING  
AND  
ROCK BOLTING  
SYSTEMS



**Neil's Controlled Blasting, L.P.**  
GENERAL ENGINEERING CONTRACTOR  
LICENSE No. 797732

**DON BELDEN**  
President  
(916) 663-2500

P.O. BOX 749      FAX: (916) 663-2507 MOBILE: (916) 240-8759  
NEWCASTLE, CA 95658 HOME: (530) 389-8906 EMAIL: dbelden@neilscontrolledblasting.com



**ENGINEERING  
SEISMOLOGY**

BLAST CONSULTING

VIBRATION MONITORING

PRE-BLAST SURVEYS

SEISMIC REFRACTION

RIPPABILITY STUDIES

**Contact: Mr. Alan "Bob" Mutchnick, RG, CEG**  
Director of Engineering Seismological Services  
Phone: (949) 888-6513      Email: bmutchnick@gmugeo.com  
23241 Arroyo Vista, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688  
[www.gmugeo.com](http://www.gmugeo.com)

## The Primer

### Ready to Monitor... in French



Now available in French, the Micromate® has redefined industry standards. Monitor vibration and noise or air overpressure on one unit. Small enough to fit in your hand, Micromate provides a user friendly touch screen interface. Support of USB 2.0 allows use of memory sticks, modem, printers and GPS. Ruggedness and reliability are the cornerstone attributes of Instantel® products.

Contact an Instantel representative today!



(613) 592-4642 • sales@instantel.com • www.instantel.com

### NOBEL INSURANCE SERVICES®

*Insuring the Explosives Industry*

Charlie M. Pollard  
Marketing Director

122 WEST JOHN CARPENTER FREEWAY, SUITE 110, IRVING, TX 75039  
TEL. (800) 766-6235 x4121 • (972) 644-0434 x4121 • FAX (972) 644-0424  
cpollard@lancerinsurance.com • www.nobelinsurance.com  
*A Division of Lancer Insurance Company*



Ray Hall  
Pacific Region Manager

#### Atlas Copco Construction & Mining

Atlas Copco Construction Mining Technique USA LLC

3610 West Capitol Ave  
West Sacramento CA 95691  
USA  
www.atlascopco.us/sacramento

Office: (916) 374-8310  
Mobile: (916) 417-3179  
Fax: (916) 374-8288  
E-mail: ray.hall@us.atlascopco.com

Explosives handling equipment since 1957.

## TREAD CORPORATION



Chris Ledford

Field Service Technician

cledford@treadcorp.com

Office (540) 982-6881 ext 240 176 East Park Drive - Roanoke, VA 24019  
Mobile (540) 353-1202 Bulk Trucks, Matrix Mixing Plants, & Storage  
www.TreadCorp.com Parts, Service, & Training



EXPLOSIVES INSURANCE SPECIALISTS

Texas AGA, Inc. Insurance Services  
5950 Sherry Lane, Suite 500  
Dallas, Texas 75225  
Phone: 972-980-9484, Ext. 309  
Email: ETaylor@aga-us.com  
CA Agency No. 0A96092

Earl Taylor  
Explosives Producer  
0F83332

## The Primer

 <b>Matheson Mining Consultants, Inc.</b>	Seismograph Rental & Sales <b>888-456-5638</b>
<i>Instantel Minimate Plus</i> \$550/mo	<i>Blastmate III</i> \$700/mo
	
<b>Measure 2 - 250 Hz Blasting, Drilling, Construction, Pile Driving</b>	
<b><i>LIMIT LIABILITY!</i></b>	

**Municon Consultants**  
*"Litigation Mitigation"*  
**VIBRATION & NOISE MONITORING**  
Blasting, Demolition, Pile Driving

**GEOTECHNICAL INSTRUMENTATION - REMOTELY READ**  
Inclinometers, Piezometers, Tiltmeters, Settlement Platforms

**PRE-DEMO/CONSTRUCTION PHOTO SURVEYS**

Ph. 415-641-2570 Fx. 415-2824097 [municon@municon.net](mailto:municon@municon.net)  
2200 Jerrold Ave. Suite K, San Francisco CA 94124

## The Primer



Current board members and officers are:

President Mike Chiurato

Treasurer Gerald “Jerry” Fulghum

Secretary Danniell Edwards

Board member Ladd Stephenson

Board member/ Newsletter Editor Mike Burneson

Website Master Wes Bender

Chapter Activities 2018

Annual Winter Business Meeting

Mt Pleasant Hall Lincoln February 24, 2018

## The Primer

### Fire in the Hole...

A frog walks into a bank and approaches the teller, whose nametag reads "Patricia Whack."

"Miss Whack, I'd like to get a \$50,000 loan to take a vacation," says the frog.

Patty looks at the frog in disbelief and asks his name.

"Kermit Jagger. My father is Mick Jagger. It will be fine to authorize the loan, I know your manager." Patty explains that he will need to secure the loan with some collateral. "Sure, how about this?" asks Kermit as he produces a tiny porcelain elephant, about an inch tall, bright pink and perfectly formed. Very confused, Patty explains that she'll have to consult with the bank manager and disappears into a back office. Patty walks into the manager's office and proceeds to tell him, "There's a frog called Kermit Jagger out there who claims to know you and wants to borrow \$50,000, and he wants to use this as collateral." Patty holds up the tiny pink elephant. "I mean, what in the world is this?" The bank manager looks back at her and says, "It's a knick knack, Patty Whack. Give the frog a loan. His old man's a Rolling Stone."

So there was a plane and in that plane was 4 people a pilot, a lawyer, a priest, and a kid. The plane is going down and fast but there was only 3 parachutes so the pilot says "I have a family and a daughter that is expecting" he grabs a parachute and jumps off the plane. The lawyer says "well I'm the smartest man on earth so I have to live" he grabs a parachute and jumps off. So now there is only 1 parachute left the priest notices this and tells the kid " Son go ahead take the last one I have lived my life" The boy looks around the plane and says "wait we can both live" the priest says " well how can that be?", the boy says " because the smartest man in the world just jumped off with my backpack" ????