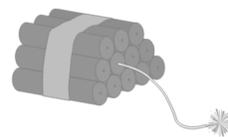


# The Primer



Newsletter of the Golden West Chapter, International Society of Explosives Engineers  
430 32nd Street, Suite 100, Newport Beach, CA 92663

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Issue 2

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

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

As I write this message, I cannot help but wonder how you are all coping with this COVID 19 pandemic and that you and your family are in good health. I understand that most of our industry are considered essential and that most have continued to operate throughout this new normal. The rules of social distancing are and probably will be here for the long term. That means something as automatic as a welcoming or post shot handshake is a thing of the past.

I have a couple of announcements to make. First, with heavy hearts that we the board and officers were recently informed that we lost one of our members and longtime supporters of the chapter. On April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Todd Harris, 2006 past president of our chapter, lost his battle with cancer. Our sympathies go out to his Family, friends, and colleagues. Please see editors notes for more information. Just in case you did not get the announcement, we canceled the Scholarship Fundraiser Sporting Clays shoot scheduled for May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We can fund the current scholarship recipients if they can meet the requirements, but we will not be able to accept applications for 2021. We are hopeful that we can get control of this pandemic and be able to get together for our annual business meeting scheduled for Saturday February 20, 2021 and reschedule the fundraiser.

Until then, enjoy the newsletter, stay well and Be Safe!

Your President,  
Mike Chiurato

## The Primer

### Editors Notes:

I am quite sure no one could have dreamed up this Covid 19 virus but a fiction writer. The reality is that we are right in the middle of a life changing event. Covid 19 has done what no Woman has ever been able to accomplish. Men staying at home. No Bars and No Sporting events. I hope that all of our members and supporters are staying healthy. I know what a stressful time this is for all whether you are still working or not. I have a ninety two year old mother that is in an elder care facility and she does not understand why I have to wear a mask on my face and talk to her from outside of the window. Lets all hope we can weather this storm together and make the best of this horrible situation. This is really not the way I wanted to start off the editors notes by telling you what you already know about the virus but, this news is not any better. I am saddened to announce the passing of one of our Golden West Chapter Past Presidents, Todd Harris. Todd was President in the year 2006. I am happy I got to talk with him at the business dinner. Todd made a habit of dropping by and seeing me in Vallejo every few months for the last twenty years. I have included the obituary in this issue of the Primer. I promise to make a toast to Todd at the next business dinner. Todd will be missed by all of us that had the pleasure of knowing him. On a much brighter note I am please to share a newspaper article about one of our scholarship recipients Charity Goldsmith-Ding. The Wesley L. Bender Scholarship Fund sponsored by The Golden West Chapter is currently awarding four \$8000 scholarships to qualifying individuals who are related to an employee in the explosives industry or related field and who wish to pursue collegiate studies. Each scholarship will be paid at the rate of \$1000 per semester. In 2018 the Wesley L. Bender scholarships were awarded to: America Aguilar-Andrade and Charity Goldsmith-Ding. In 2019 the Wesley L. Bender scholarships were awarded to: Cody Mallman and Gracie Goldsmith-Ding. Longtime member Ladd Stephenson sent me an interesting article about Alfred Nobel that I am pleased to share with you. Thank you Ladd for the contribution. I would appreciate if any one has a photo of one of our past presidents to please email it to me at [Mburneson@aol.com](mailto:Mburneson@aol.com). I want to run an article on this subject. I can't take credit for the good stuff in this issue of fire in the hole. These Zen phrase come straight from the fastest banjo playing monkey on the planet.

Be Safe

Lake Herman Mike Live @ the Rock

## Todd Harris Obituary

Todd Kenneth Harris, 58, died after his battle with cancer on Saturday April 25th, 2020, in Vacaville, CA.



Todd is survived by his spouse, Shane Snyder, of Vacaville, CA; his father , Bob Harris and wife Patti Harris, of Miranda, CA; his mother, Diane Harris, of Vancouver, WA; sister Brenda Harris of Miranda, CA; sister Nina Blankenship of Fortuna, CA; brother Jimmy Blankenship of Albuquerque, NM. Along with a number of nieces , nephews, cousins and close family friend “Uncle Larry Burgh of Miranda, CA.

Todd Harris was born on March 26th 1962 in Portland, OR. He attended South Fork High school in Miranda, CA. After high school he owned a Shell gas station in Miranda. He moved to St. Helens, WA. In 1989 and accepted a position as a Commercial Driver for Austin Powder Company where he worked for over 30 years. He relocated numerous times for Austin Powder, with stops including Onalaska, WA, Denver, CO, Chehalis, WA, Bend, Or and finally Fairfield CA. In addition to being a driver, Todd was a certified blaster for Austin powder in the state of California. In later years Todd's passion was sales and he was instrumental in the development of their Northern California territory. Some of the most recent projects he was involved with were the Oroville Dam spillway and the demolition of the old San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. Todd was a member of the Eel river Good Sasms club and enjoyed spending time with the group on camping outings. His family and friends will always remember him as fun loving and for his sarcastic sense of humor. Todd will be missed greatly by everyone whose life he touched.

## The Primer

### Editors Notes Continued...

#### Golden West Chapter Scholarship Update.



After a frustrating start to her sophomore wrestling season at York College in Nebraska, Charity Goldsmith-Ding was setting up for a fantastic finish.

What she got was an abrupt ending.

Last month, Goldsmith-Ding, a Class of 2018 Argonaut High School graduate, and her teammates on the York College women's wrestling team made the 10-hour bus ride to Jamestown, North Dakota to compete in the NAIA Women's Wrestling National Invitational, which was scheduled to be held on March 13 and 14. On the day before the tournament was to begin, Goldsmith-Ding and the rest of the York Panthers were going through a final practice session when they were interrupted by their coach.

"He pulled us to the side and told us we wouldn't be wrestling," Goldsmith-Ding recalled.

Due to concerns among the growing Coronavirus global pandemic, the tournament, like many other sporting events, had been cancelled.

"It was rough after working really hard to earn your way to nationals to not be able to wrestle," Goldsmith-Ding said. "We were literally on the mat having a practice less than 24 hours before nationals was going to begin when they decided to cancel it. Everything was set up and then just like that, everything was being taken down. It was pretty weird."

Prior to this season, the NAIA national tournament was open to all wrestlers. This year marked the first time wrestlers needed to qualify to compete at the national tournament and Goldsmith-Ding earned her way by placing third in the 170-pound division at the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference Championships.

After a rocky start to the season slowed by injuries, including a concussion that kept her out of three tournaments, Charity was finally breaking out of her "sophomore slump." She went 3-1 at the conference tournament, bouncing back from a loss in the semifinals to win the third-place match against a girl who was ranked fifth nationally at the time and had been a thorn in Goldsmith-Ding's side in previous matchups.

"During my freshman year, every time I wrestled her she whipped my butt," Goldsmith-Ding said.

"Coming into the conference tournament, I felt good and I went out and pinned her in 1 minute, 6 seconds."

### Editors Notes Continued:



Charity was riding high into nationals, ranked in the top-20 nationally among NAIA wrestlers in the 170-pound division and wrestling as well as she ever had.

"I was out there having the time of my life, wrestling as hard as I could," she said.

The cancellation of the national tournament was an unfortunate blow for all the wrestlers and Goldsmith-Ding wants to turn her frustration into motivational fuel.

"Losing the chance to wrestle at nationals felt like a big defeat for all of us," Charity said.

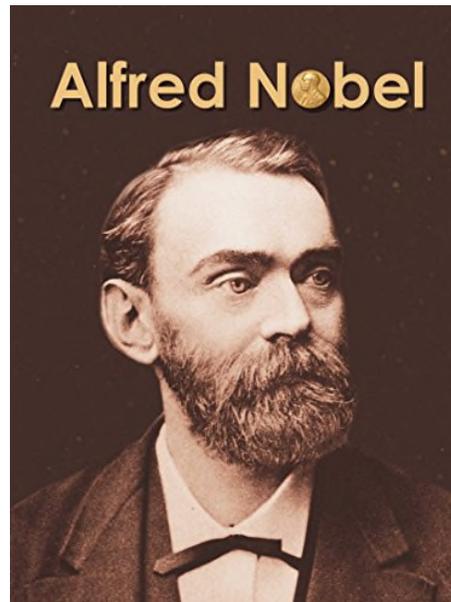
"Honestly, I feel a little bit angry that I didn't get to end the season on my own terms. I definitely feel a sense of urgency. I need to come back next year and not fool around. I want to wrestle as much as I can. I just want to go out there and win."

In the meantime, Goldsmith-Ding, 20, is waiting out the current shelter-in-place order at home with her family in Lone. Following the tournament cancellation, and after a banquet held that night to celebrate the accomplishment of making it to nationals – a celebration Goldsmith-Ding described as a "pity party" – Charity and her teammates made the 10-hour bus ride back to York College, which had just announced that it was transitioning to online classes for the rest of the semester. She returned home to California soon after.

Charity said she misses the structure of college life and most of her screen time has been spent on homework, although she will break from her studies from time to time to play "Animal Crossing" on her Nintendo Switch. "It's a very childish game, but it's calming," she said. She's also kept in touch with her coach and teammates during the break and is looking forward to getting back on the mat again at some point to resume her college wrestling career. "College wrestling is pretty amazing," Charity said. "It's a big difference going from high school to college. Everyone wants to be out there as much as you do, so the standards are a lot higher."

## The Primer

### Editors Notes:



I want to thank Ladd Stephenson for sending me an article about Alfred Nobel. I have done a little research about the story. Here is my understanding of the event. In 1888 Alfred Nobel was reading the newspaper when he came across his own obituary. The article was written by a French journalist who had published the obituary about the wrong brother. It was Alfred's brother Ludvig who had died. The article was very disturbing to Alfred. The French journalist had written a very pointed article about the great inventor who had made his fortune from explosives. Alfred felt that the general public was going to remember him as the merchant of death. Alfred may have been inspired by reading the article so much that he would show the world his real purpose in life was not just having been a great inventor who held hundreds of patents, scientist and businessman who also wrote poetry but, when Alfred passed in 1896 in his last will and testament he decided to establish the Nobel Peace Prize for the final distribution of his massive fortune to those that have done the most to cause world peace.



State of California  
 Department of Industrial Relations  
 Division of Occupational Safety & Health  
 Mining & Tunneling Unit



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**Experience is required in the type of work for which you're requesting license or certification:**

Gas Tester: at least 1 year of underground experience

- \$15 for any or all GT exam portions
- Must have experience in gassy situations if applying for gassy certification
- Bring your testing instrument and unexpired calibration gases

Safety Representative: at least 2 years of underground safety experience

- \$15 for any or all SR exam portions
- Must have experience in gassy situations if applying for gassy certification

Blaster: at least 3 years of blasting experience

- \$15 for any or all blasting exam portions
- Describe your explosive experience, including what kind of explosive work you have done, and what kind of explosive materials you have used.

**Each examinee must provide the following at least 10 days before the exam:**

Application and Form W-1.

- Complete both pages of the appropriate application, and sign on Page 2.
- Complete all pages of the Form W-1, and sign on Page 4. All pages must be submitted.

Check or Money Order, payable to "State of California".

- We cannot accept cash or credit/debit card payments.
- We cannot issue refunds.

**The following must be provided at the time of the exam:**

One of the following forms of unexpired photo\* identification:

- Driver's license
- State-issued ID card
- Military ID card

One of the following:

- Birth Certificate
- Current Passport

\* A temporary ID without photo must be accompanied by a current passport or other item with photo. M&T Certification or License cannot be used as an ID.

**Exam Locations and Dates**

Contact the following offices for scheduled dates and times:

<p>District 1 (North)          1750 Howe Ave, Suite 300          Sacramento, CA 95825-3369          (916) 574-2540</p>	<p>District 2 (Central)          6150 Van Nuys Blvd, Suite 310          Van Nuys, CA 91401-3345          (818) 901-5420</p>	<p>District 3 (South)          464 W. Fourth St., Suite 354          San Bernardino, CA 92401-1442          (909) 383-6782</p>
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NOTE: Following a failed exam, we require 90 days to have elapsed before re-taking the exam.

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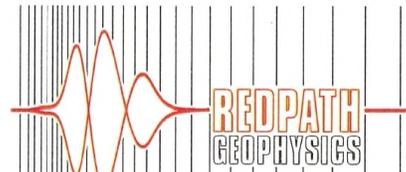
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Treasurer Gerald  
“Jerry” Fulghum  
Secretary Joe Stack  
Board member Todd Quigley  
Board member, Newsletter  
Editor Mike Burneson  
Website Master Wes Bender

Chapter Activities  
Crab Feed Business Dinner  
Saturday, February 20, 2021

## The Primer

### Fire in the Hole...

ZEN FOR SERIOUS PEOPLE.

1. Save the whales. Collect the whole set.
2. A day without sunshine is like..... night.
3. On the other hand, you have different fingers.
4. I just got lost in thought. It wasn't familiar territory.
5. 42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot.
6. 99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
7. I feel like I'm diagonally parked in a parallel universe.
8. Honk if you love peace and quiet.
9. Remember, half the people you know are below Average.
10. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
11. Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
12. The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
13. I drive way too fast to worry about cholesterol.
14. Support bacteria. They're the only culture some people have.
15. Monday is an awful way to spend 1/7 of your week.
16. A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
17. Change is inevitable, except from vending machines.
18. Get a new car for your spouse. It'll be a great trade!
19. Plan to be spontaneous tomorrow.

### Fire in the Hole...

20. Always try to be modest, and be proud of it!
21. If you think nobody cares, try missing a couple of payments.
22. How many of you believe in psycho-kinesis? Raise My hand...
23. OK, so what's the speed of dark?
24. How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?
25. If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
26. When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
27. Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now.
28. Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don't have film.
29. If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
30. How much deeper would the ocean be without sponges?
31. Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
32. What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
33. I used to have an open mind but my brains kept falling out.
34. I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder.
35. Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?
36. Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what happened.
37. Just remember - if the world didn't suck, we would fall off.
38. Light travels faster than sound. That is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.