



## AUGUST 2001 PROGRAM:

### **SOCIAL NIGHT at SINBAD'S in SAN FRANCISCO!**

Due to the slowdown of section activities during the summer months and busy vacation and work schedules, the Section has decided to have a Social Night at one of our long-time meeting venues – Sinbad's Restaurant, in San Francisco. If you have never come to a meeting or are a meeting veteran, we welcome you to come and talk, to meet the officers and other members and to socialize!

Sinbad's is located on Pier 2, just south of the Ferry Building, on the Embarcadero, in San Francisco. See the Meeting Details below for more info.

#### Meeting Details:

- ?? Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>
- ?? Sinbad's Restaurant,  
Embarcadero, San Francisco
- ?? 6:00pm – Cocktail Hour
- ?? 7:00pm – Dinner
- ?? 8:00pm – Social Night
- ?? \$30 members, students ½ off who  
call Dr. Williams, 408-924-5050.
- ?? **Reservations due by Friday,  
August 10th. See back cover  
for RSVP form.**

#### **Section Officers, 2000-2001**

##### **Chair**

Jason Preece  
Camp, Dresser & McKee, Inc.  
925-933-2900  
preeceje@cdm.com

##### **Vice-Chair**

Charles Kissick  
Sigma Prime Geosciences  
650-726-7198  
sigmaprm@pacbell.net

##### **Treasurer**

Corinne Stewart  
Pacific Geotechnical  
408-629-7801  
stewart\_corinne@hotmail.com

##### **Secretary**

Anne Rosinski  
CDMG  
415-904-7730  
arosinsk@consvr.ca.gov

##### **Committee Chairs**

##### **Membership Chair**

Chris Hundemer  
Upp Geotechnology, Inc.  
408-275-1336  
rockman8@pacbell.net

##### **Short Course Chair**

Ernest Solomon  
650-948-3528  
esolo@earthlink.net

##### **Field Trip Chair**

Drew Kennedy  
Gilpin Geosciences  
north35west@earthlink.net

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#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE...**

Last Words – *Final Thoughts and Thanks from the Editor* – Page 2

AEG Website Usage Is On the Rise – Page 3

Vote for the 2001-2002 Section Officers – See Ballot Insert

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#### **AUGUST SECTION MEETING DETAILS**

The August Section Meeting will be held at Sinbad's Restaurant, located at Pier 2 on the Embarcadero in San Francisco. Sinbad's is located just south of the Ferry Building. A small valet parking lot is available. The Embarcadero BART station is a close 5-minute walk.

We would like to make the meeting pleasant for others as well as our speakers, so we ask that all cellphones and pagers be turned off during all presentations. Also, please make your meeting reservations on time. We had a lot of walk-ins at the last meeting. Spenger's did a great job of accommodating us, but we ended up with only pasta as a meal choice for most of the walk-ins. Thank you to the folks who had made dinner choices in advance and traded them for pasta to make my life easier. The restaurants set up for the number of reservations that I phone in on the Friday before the meeting (the restaurants want 3 working days notice of the number of people to expect and meal choices). If you are on the permanent reservation list, I will order you the same meal (or a similar choice) that you ordered at the previous meeting, unless you contact me and tell me otherwise.

Finally, please FAX all meeting reservation correspondence; there have been e-mail problems during the week of the meeting and I could be in the field and away from the computer (as geologists, you can understand that this is a very real possibility). The fax number is on the RSVP form on the back cover. So please make all reservations by Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup>!

Thank you for your cooperation,  
CORINNE STEWART, Section Treasurer

## Committee Chairs

### CCGO Liaison

Betsy Mathieson  
Exponent Failure Analysis  
emathieson@exponent.com

### Legislative Chair

Julian C. Isham  
Julian.Isham@theitgroup.com

### Publications Chair

Patrick Drumm  
Geolith, Inc.  
pldrumm@geolith.com

### Awards Chair

Keil Albert  
Geoconsultants, Inc.  
kalbert@ix.netcom.com

### Past Chair

Gary Pischke  
Earth Systems Consultants

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### Newsletter Editor

Gretchen Mora  
aegnews@visto.com

The AEG San Francisco Section Newsletter is a monthly publication of the San Francisco Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists.

### Submittals:

Deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month for the following issue. Contact Gretchen Mora by email (aegnews@visto.com) for submittal. All submittals are subject to editing for space. Job ads are free if brief.

**Address changes:** Please submit to Section Secretary, Anne Rosinski at 415-904-7730.

### Advertisements:

The newsletter's circulation is about 360 within northern California. Use these low rates to expand your market:

	<u>Monthly</u>
Business card	\$ 15
1/4 page	\$ 30
1/2 page	\$ 60

### Sponsorship:

Become a Section Corporate Sponsor! Donate to the Section and receive free advertisement each month, recognition for your donation at Section Meetings, and more! For more info on Section Sponsorship, Contact Jason Preece.

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

There will be no Chair's Message this month. The Chair's Message will begin a new bi-monthly schedule starting with the next newsletter.

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## LAST WORDS

As this is my final newsletter, I just wanted to say a few words and thank a few people who have helped me during the last two years. As crazy as it may sound, *I really do* enjoy putting the newsletter together every month and sending it out to people all over the state (and by email all over the country). It has been a pleasure to see the statistics from the website every month and watch the numbers grow as to how many people are downloading the newsletter (more about this on Page 3). Be it a paper copy or by email, the newsletter represents the continuous tie that all of us have to our organization – AEG. It is the only (hopefully reliable) method we have to disseminate information on a monthly basis to every individual in the organization. Whether they choose to read it is up to them, but the opportunity to read it has been given.

I have tried to give not only association news, but also general geologic news and interesting bits about our very diverse membership to you every month. The Section Officers and Committee Chairs know what a hard-nose I can be regarding deadlines, but I had one reason to do it – the membership that is relying on a timely delivery of the newsletter!

In publishing every month, there are a lot of people that I rely on to give me input, and I can't stress enough how helpful they have been to me at one time or another. Among them and tops on my thank you list are the three Chairs that I have served under – Betsy Mathieson, Gary Pischke and Jason Preece. Thanks to you, I was encouraged, supported and given a chance to do the website as well. I also have to give a big thanks to the Secretaries, present and past – Anne Rosinski and Corinne Stewart. Without your help, I would never have a monthly meeting summary or mailing labels! I would like to also recognize the input of several regular "contributors" to the newsletter: Bob Tepel, Ernie Solomon, Rexx Upp, Drew Kennedy, Chris Hundemer, Keil Albert, and our Vice-Chair, Charlie Kissick.

As a last note, I hope that the future newsletter editor will have as much fun doing this as I did. It's a great way to meet people and feel like you are contributing to the organization. I hope the newsletter will continue to inform and entertain, and the members will continue to look forward to it every month.

GRETCHEN MORA, Newsletter Editor

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## JULY SECTION MEETING NOTES

The speaker for the month of July was Dr. Sands Figuers, a geological consultant with Norfleet Consultants, in Livermore, California. Dr. Figuers presented a case history of the Crothers Road landslide that occurred during the winter of 1998, in Alum Rock Park, in San Jose. The large slide (original estimates of the slide dimensions were 500 feet long x 200 feet wide x 50 feet deep) damaged the road serving as the main entrance of the park, as well as several homes adjacent to the park boundary. During the course of his investigation, Dr. Figuers discovered that the complexity of the mechanism of slope failure was matched only by the complexity of working with the multiple jurisdictions (City of San Jose, Santa Clara County, Alum Rock Park, several private homeowners) across which the landslide cut.

ANNE ROSINSKI, Section Secretary

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## NEWSLETTER STATUS – RED ALERT!

PLEASE NOTE: There is not yet a replacement for Newsletter Editor, and therefore, **there will be no September newsletter**. If you would like to volunteer to be the Newsletter Editor for the 2001-2002 term, please contact Gretchen Mora (510-713-8136). Any pertinent updates regarding meetings in the future will be posted on the website **only** (www.aegsf.org) until a new editor is found!!

Also note: There will be no newsletter in October due to the National Meeting in St. Louis.

## AEGSF WEBSITE USAGE IS ON THE RISE

Many people have asked, "Why do we have a website?" "What is the purpose of having one?" "Who besides our members would be interested in what we do?" Our website is officially one year old in July, and has had a continuous increase in usage over the past year. The purpose of the Section developing a website was to give all members with a computer (which must be greater than 80% in this day and age) the ability to access news or information at their convenience – anytime!

Based on the statistics I have available regarding the website, we have had over 25,000 hits since our website first went online last year. The usage has been increasing dramatically as time goes by. For example, in the last 90 days, we have had over 800 hits on the index page alone. The top domain type accessing our site seems to be the government – ca.gov has been the leader since January! In second place is pacbell.net and aol.com came in third.

We do seem to be reaching a wide audience – whether by accident or purposely, I don't know! However, it is good news to me that we have had visitors to the website from 32 countries in the last 90 days! After the United States, most people from a single country visiting are from the UK, then Japan, Australia, Germany, Taiwan, Spain, Poland, Belgium, Turkey and Italy. It also appears we have a fan in Cyprus and one in Trinidad and Tobago, as we have had at least 1 hit from them every 90 days!

Our fieldtrips page has generated a lot of activity – we have had 292 hits since it went online in May. Also, every month the newsletter and newsletter archive downloads have been increasing. We had 224 downloads for the June newsletter, and around 210 for the July newsletter (probably due to some vacations).

Statistics on the average user tell me that s/he likes to look at the website usually right after I send out the email announcement of a new newsletter online – around the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month or so. Most users are accessing the website on Tuesday or Friday (at least in the last 90 days), and most seem to be accessing around noon or 5pm in the afternoon, although there are a higher number than expected accessing between midnight and 2am!

The Section Officers and Committee Chairs have recently given permission to buy the aegsf.org domain name for the next 10 years. I hope that the Section will continue to grow and provide outreach on the web. I also hope that members will continue to contribute to the website with their ideas and suggestions!

GRETCHEN MORA, Website Manager

**Thank You to AEG Corporate Sponsors from  
the San Francisco Section!**

**Applied Geomechanics – Santa Cruz  
Exponent Failure Analysis – Menlo Park  
Upp Geotechnology – San Jose**

## SPONSORS SOUGHT

If you would like to present your company services or products that may be of interest to the geotechnical community, become a Monthly Section Meeting Sponsor! Give a quick presentation of your company before the main speaker at the monthly meeting, get free advertising in the newsletter and website, and reap the benefits of exposure! Contact Jason Preece (925-933-2900) for more information and sign up today!



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**AEG August Newsletter**  
**August 14 – Monthly Section Meeting**  
**Sinbad's Restaurant, San Francisco**

**CHECK OUT THE AEG SF SECTION WEBSITE AT WWW.AEGSF.ORG!**

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**RESERVATION FORM – August 14, 2001 AEG Dinner Meeting, 6pm**  
**Sinbad's Restaurant, Pier 2, Embarcadero, San Francisco**

**Please fax your reservation to arrive before *noon*, Friday, August 10th**

Fax to Corinne Stewart, c/o Pacific Geotechnical Engineering (408-779-6879) - Check or Cash at the door – Do not mail or fax payment.

Dinner and Meeting Cost: \$30 – members or spouses    \$15 – student members    \$32 – others

**Make checks payable to: AEG SF SECTION**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ NO. OF PEOPLE \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHOOSE AN ENTRÉE:                      CHICKEN                      SALMON                      VEGETARIAN**

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***PERMANENT RESERVATION FORM***

AEG San Francisco Section Monthly Dinner Meetings are usually but not always on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

I will attend and make payment for each meeting. If I am unable to attend I will fax or mail a cancellation notice to

Corinne Stewart (fax: 408-779-6879) by noon, the Friday before the meeting.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BILLING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Costs are normally but not always: \$30 – members or spouses    \$15 – student members    \$32 - others

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