

# The Bulletin

ASCE / North Carolina Section

Volume 44 No. 4

Mar. / Apr. 2008

## Mark your Calendar:

### April 9

Eastern Branch Golf Tournament

### April 28

Spring Technical Session  
NCSU McKimmon Center  
Raleigh

### May 9

Southern Branch Golf Tournament

### Sept. 11-12

Joint NC / SC Section  
Annual Meeting and  
Golf Tournament  
Marriott Executive Park  
Charlotte

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## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Jeffrey Coonse, PE



This Spring and Summer, the NC Section will be calling on members to write letters to the editor and op-ed pieces for their local newspapers in support of increased infrastructure funding. Having been awarded the full State Public Affairs Grant (SPAG) for 2008, the NC Section will be running ads in 5 metropolitan area newspapers advocating for additional infrastructure funding.

Why are we doing all of this?

NORTH CAROLINA  
Infrastructure Report Card 2006

### REPORT CARD

American Society of Civil Engineers

SUBJECT	GRADE
AIRPORTS	D+
BRIDGES	C-
DAMS	D
DRINKING WATER	C+
RAIL	B-
ROADS	D
SCHOOLS	C-
STORM WATER	C-
WASTEWATER	C-
NC GPA	C-

- In 2006, the North Carolina Section successfully used a SPAG to publish a report card on the state of our infrastructure. The Report Card shows that our state has neglected its vital infrastructure.

- North Carolina is projected to grow to America's 7<sup>th</sup> largest state with a population of 12 million by the year 2030. We are currently growing at a rate of 504 people per day or 184,000 per year.

- Clearly, North Carolina cannot sustain this growth or effectively serve today's population without getting serious about infrastructure funding.

I will be contacting some of you to recruit your help in advocating for the future of our state. Let's be prepared to speak out. As Civil Engineers, our primary ethical responsibility is the health, safety and welfare of the public. If we know something needs to be done, aren't we called to act?

Editor's Note:

The NC ASCE Report Card and Whitepapers are available for viewing and downloading from:

<http://nc.asce.org/ReportCard.html>

## PROBLEM CORNER

Editor's Note: Due to the late delivery of the Jan/Feb issue, this is a repeat of the last Problem Corner. Email replies are now welcome.

There are 9 uniquely numbered bags of sand, 1-9, arranged in the following fashion:

2 7 8 1 5 6 3 9 4

Multiply the single digit with the double digit on each respective side to obtain the triple digit number:  $2 * 78 = 156$  and  $4 * 39 = 156$ . Using the same logic, move as few of the bags as possible to create a new solution. Please send your answer to [krines@mbpce.com](mailto:krines@mbpce.com) or mail to Keith Rines, McDonough Bolyard Peck, 3101 Poplarwood Ct., Raleigh, NC 27604.



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## Project Highlight

by Steve Kiser, PE, of MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc. (Charlotte, NC)

# National Gypsum Co.

Mount Holly, North Carolina

In order to keep pace with the growing population and need for regional construction products, the National Gypsum Company, with headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina, have recently expanded their manufacturing capabilities. The expansion was done with the recent completion of a new wallboard processing facility located in nearby Mount Holly, North Carolina. The expansion is a \$125 million, high-speed wallboard plant. The plant will help recycle waste material which would otherwise go to landfills. It will also be capable of producing approximately one billion square feet of wallboard annually at speeds over 500 feet per minute. That is enough wallboard to complete approximately 100,000 average-sized homes per year. The site is located on approximately 163 acres with over 400,000 square feet of contiguous building space and several new railroad spurs.

MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc., working directly for the National Gypsum Company, provided geotechnical design services as well as construction testing and monitoring. The site was challenging from a geotechnical standpoint, which included several streams and wetlands, large variations (over 60 feet) in topography across the site, and existing development on the site and nearby. MACTEC drilled over 50 soil test borings to depths of up to 100 feet, including rock coring in some areas of shallow partially weathered rock. MACTEC performed numerous calculations to evaluation slope stability, settlement, and bearing capacity of heavily loaded structures and footings. Some of the structures were constructed on large mat foundations with bearing pressures of over 4,000 psf, and floor loads in some areas were greater than 1,000 psf. Due to these high structural loads and the presence of alluvial soils, several of the structures were pile supported.

During construction, MACTEC was onsite full-time to monitor grading activities for over 30 feet of cut and fill, undercut of soft soils, and pile driving for steel H-piles. MACTEC also provided dynamic pile testing (PDA) services during the pile driving activities with personnel from their Charlotte office. Grading and earthwork activities also included recommendations for geogrid and geotextiles, asphalt and concrete pavement sections, and rock excavation. The rock excavation was performed in a gypsum storage facility constructed about 20 feet below grade. In addition, MACTEC personnel sampled concrete, performed reinforcing steel inspections, and provided continuous inspection of structural steel erection. The steel inspection services included ultrasonic testing of full-penetration welds. Our construction inspection services were provided over the course of about 20 months.

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## Career Opportunities

**The Town of Mooresville** (Pop. 22,000+), one of the fastest growing municipalities in NC and located in southern Iredell County, adjoining Lake Norman is accepting applications for a Civil Engineer (2 positions available). Requires a BS degree in Civil engineering and considerable experience in engineering. EIT required, PE preferred. Salary Hiring Range: \$42,190-\$64,197. Physical/Drug Screen Required. For additional information or to download an application – [www.ci.mooresville.nc.us](http://www.ci.mooresville.nc.us). Submit application to HR Director, Town of Mooresville, PO Box 878, Mooresville, NC 28115. Position open until filled. EOE

**Groundwater Management Associates, Inc. (GMA)** is seeking a civil/environmental engineer for our Cary, NC office. Minimum requirements are a BS degree in engineering and 4 years of professional experience with water supply/distribution projects. PE required. Advanced degree preferred. Send a letter of interest and resume to GMA, 101-E Woodwinds Industrial Court, Cary, NC 27511 or email to [eng@gma-nc.com](mailto:eng@gma-nc.com).



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### Volunteers Needed!

This is the time of year when the Section and Branches are searching for volunteers. Members are needed to fill Board and Committee positions all over the state. If you want to be more involved, and more informed about what YOUR Society is doing, contact a member of the Section Board or your Branch Board and find out what positions need to be filled. Whether you can give a one-time 2-hour commitment or volunteer for an hour every week, there's a job you can fill.

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### The Joint NC / SC Section Annual Meeting

planned for September 11 and 12, 2008 promises to be filled with exciting technical presentations, new and innovative vendor displays and demonstrations, field trips for members and shopping/tourist trips for guests, spouses and family members, a competitive golf tournament which raises money for the Scholarship Fund, and a chance to see the nightlife in Charlotte from a Younger Member's perspective.

Mark your calendar now, and watch for details in upcoming issues of The Bulletin as well as on the Section and Branch websites.

Contact Yolande Stover, PE, to get involved in the planning stages to ensure all the activities YOU would like to see get included in the agenda. Don't miss this important opportunity to help lead the Section to new engineering marvels.

## Branch News

**Northern Branch:** The February branch meeting was held on January 23, 2008 at the Fire Mountain Grill in Kernersville. Mr. Jesse Jacobson, P.E., of S&ME, discussed the key issues of steep slope construction, namely in western North Carolina. He stressed the importance of investigating geologic hazards for the proposed sites in this region. Identifying these hazards early in the site development process can improve the safety and efficiency of the project. 24 members were in attendance and 1 PDH was awarded.

The March branch meeting was held on March 28, 2008 at NC A&T during the Carolinas Conference. The Northern Branch sponsored the Geotechnical event which tested the mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) construction skills of the engineering students. S&ME was the corporate sponsor for this event and the branch members assisted with refreshments and judging. Other events included concrete canoe, steel bridge, surveying, environmental, transportation and the Mead paper. Detailed information for the conference can be found at

<http://www.ncat.edu/~asce/2008CarolinasConference.htm>.

Information on the geotechnical competition can be found at

<http://groups.google.com/group/asce-cc-geotech> and

[http://www.ncat.edu/~asce/Files/2008\\_Carolinas\\_Conference\\_Geotech\\_Competition.pdf](http://www.ncat.edu/~asce/Files/2008_Carolinas_Conference_Geotech_Competition.pdf). Look for results and updates in the upcoming branch newsletter.

The branch is proud to recognize our 8 E-Week volunteers who ventured out into the Piedmont to assist with engineering activities and presentations. The egg drop competition, held at Hanes Mall in Winston-Salem, drew about 500 participants. Stories from the volunteers will be highlighted in the upcoming branch newsletters.

Upcoming meeting topics for the 2008 year include, NC Turnpike Authority, structural health monitoring, Winston-Salem stadium project, liens, wetlands and green-sustainable buildings. More details will be available in upcoming Northern Branch newsletters.

Members are being encouraged to think of folks to nominate for the upcoming branch officer elections in May.

**The Southern Branch** is shaping up for a busy spring season. Our next scheduled meeting will be on April 22. It is scheduled for 5:30 PM until 8:00 PM (dinner meeting), and will be co-hosted by the ASCE student chapter of UNC Charlotte. This event is always highly anticipated by our membership, and this year should be no different. The meeting will be used to induct new student chapter officers for the upcoming year, present year-end awards for various scholarships and civil engineering awards, and provide an opportunity for students to interact with members of the local profession. Our membership is encouraged to attend to mingle with students and begin the recruiting process. In addition, we are looking forward to the honor of presenting Life Membership awards to four members of the Southern Branch.

We are also hoping to hold our May meeting as a field trip at the site of the new Charlotte-Douglas International Airport runway project. This project was highlighted in a previous version of this newsletter, and involves the construction of a third parallel runway. Details have yet to be finalized, but late May should be a great time to be outdoors and visit the site!

Another highlight of the Southern Branch spring schedule is the annual golf tournament. This is the flagship fund raiser for our scholarship fund, and should be a big success this year. It will be held on Friday, May 9 at the Birkdale Golf Course in Huntersville, North Carolina. It will be a shotgun start at 9 AM, and the cost is \$85. Please see the Southern Branch newsletter for more details on hole and cart sponsorships, registration, and pertinent information. .

### Golf Tournament

Presented by the Eastern Branch

to benefit the NC Section Scholarship Fund

Wednesday, April 9th, 12:30pm Shotgun Start

Eagle Ridge Golf Course

See <http://easternnc.asce.org> for details

### Golf Tournament


Presented by the Southern Branch

to benefit the NC Section Scholarship Fund

Friday, May 9th, 9:00am Shotgun Start

Birkdale Golf Course, Huntersville, NC

Cost: \$85 per player



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Feasibility Studies	Transit	336.819.4200
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Hydraulics	Urban & Regional Planning	
Local Government Services		

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## Branch News (continued from Page 5)

**The Western Branch** held our January meeting on January 24th at the Deltec Homes facility in Asheville. Lunch was provided at the facility, as was a presentation by ASCE Member Linnea Linton, PE who discussed the design, fabrication, and construction processes of these innovative, circular, prefabricated homes. Members were then escorted on a tour of the manufacturing facility to observe the fabrication processes first-hand. One PDH was awarded.

Our February meeting was held during our annual Engineer's Week Banquet on February 21st at the Biltmore Baptist Conference Center. The banquet was jointly sponsored by six local engineering societies including ASCE, PENC, IEEE, ASME, SWE, and ASQ. The presentation was given by Mr. Grayson Randall of Insight Racing in Cary, who spoke about the 2007 DARPA Urban Challenge. He spoke about the development of the Insight Racing "Lone Wolf" autonomous vehicle, as well as the process of participating in the Urban Challenge. The DARPA Urban Challenge is an autonomous vehicle research and development program with the goal of developing technology that will keep soldiers off the battlefield and out of harm's way. The Urban Challenge features autonomous ground vehicles maneuvering in a mock city environment, executing simulated military supply missions, while merging into moving traffic, navigating traffic circles, negotiating busy intersections, and avoiding obstacles... all with no human drivers and no remote control. The Insight Racing Team and Lone Wolf vehicle are sponsored, in part, by NC State University. One PDH was awarded.

**Eastern Branch:** Our January Branch meeting was held on January 17<sup>th</sup> at the NC State University Club in Raleigh. The speaker was Dr. Leonhard Bernold – Former Associate Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at NC State. His presentation was entitled "Can Civil Engineering Education Afford Not to Change?" We had 70 members and guests attend the meeting. One PDH was awarded.

Our February Branch meeting was held on February 21<sup>st</sup> at the NC State University Club in Raleigh. The speaker was Johnny Lowe, P.E. – Senior Civil Project Manager with Castle and Cooke NC. His presentation was entitled "NC Research Campus Civil Engineering Projects & Innovations." We had 78 members and guests attend the meeting. One PDH was awarded.

The most recent Eastern Branch lunch meeting was held on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the NC State University Club in Raleigh. The speakers were Ed Buchan and Kenneth Waldroup, P.E. – City of Raleigh. The presentation was entitled "City of Raleigh Water Supply Drought and Reclaimed Water."

The next Eastern Branch lunch meeting will be held on April 17<sup>th</sup> at the NC State University Club in Raleigh.

The next two Eastern Branch Board meetings will be held in April 10<sup>th</sup> and on May 8<sup>th</sup> at location TBD.

If you are interested in volunteering time to work for the promotion of your profession in civil engineering, please contact one of the Eastern Branch board members. Our contact information is in this issue of The Bulletin on page 3 and on our website.



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**Want to place an ad in the next issue of The Bulletin?**

Simply contact the editor and staff at  
[nc.asce.bulletin@earthlink.net](mailto:nc.asce.bulletin@earthlink.net)

Rates are posted on the website at  
<http://nc.asce.org>.

**Deadlines for submissions are listed in the calendar on the back cover.**

## Spring Tech Update

Watch the website and be on the lookout for email about the opening of registration for the Annual Spring Technical Session, scheduled this year for April 28th at the NCSU McKimmon Center. Participants will be able to earn a total of 6 PDHs on the day. It is anticipated there will be 3 sessions for each of the 5 Technical Groups: Structures, Transportation, Water Resources, Geotechnical, and Construction Materials, plus 2 or 3 sessions on Engineering Management and/or Legislative Affairs.

The following speakers have been confirmed as of the date of publication:

- Curtis Weaver / USGS; Water Supply and the Drought
- Kathryn Benson / CH@M Hill; MCAS New River Project
- Scott Lockyear / Woodworks Southeast; Designing Wood Frame Structures for Wind Design
- Joe Rossabi / Redox Tech; Achieving Contact Between Remediation Amendments and Soil and Groundwater Contaminants
- Allen R. Parker / Tensar; Aggregate and Pavement Reinforcement
- Michael E. Krannitz / Stewart Engineering; Coalition of Transportation Engineers Purpose and Update

Online registration has never been easier, and once the registration link is activated, you will be able to view the entire schedule and list of speakers before you actually register to attend. You can pay online with a credit card, or you can choose the "Pay by Check" option if you prefer to mail your payment.

### ASCE's Member Get A Member Drive

Did you know that when asked why they hadn't joined ASCE yet, most non-members replied, "**Because I was never asked**"? The best people to do the asking are current members like you. In fact, each year ASCE counts on you to help us grow by encouraging your civil engineering colleagues and peers to join – **we'll even reward you for it.**

Sponsor new members throughout the year to maximize your chance to win! Each month, you'll have the opportunity to win one of five \$25 gift cards - even if your recruits don't join - just for giving us the names of potential members. When your recruits do join, you'll earn one entry per new member into our quarterly drawing for an even bigger prize. **Plus, the year's Top Recruiter will win \$700 cash!**

See the website for details: <http://content.ascedrive.org/>

### Changes are coming to *The Bulletin*

The Section Board of Directors has voted to change the method of delivering *The Bulletin* to members of the NC Section. Beginning with the Sept/Oct 2008 issue, most members will receive *The Bulletin* via the Section website (<http://nc.asce.org>) in the form of a pdf file. Members will be notified by their Branch Secretary when a new issue is available. You will be able to read the issue online, or download and print the pdf as a hardcopy.

Advantages to the electronic version?

- Most ads are in color, which isn't available with the current mailed version.
- Issues will be available immediately upon release. We won't be dependent on the Post Office to deliver them.
- The Section will save an average of \$2,000 per issue, which can be used for programs to benefit the membership.
- Less paper waste, less clutter in your inbox.

**If the all-electronic version will cause a hardship to you, please contact *The Bulletin* staff or your Branch Secretary or President.** A limited number of hard copies of each issue will be produced and mailed via regular mail to those members who do not have access to the internet. We want all members to receive each issue of *The Bulletin*. If you need to receive a hard copy by mail, please inform the editorial staff or your Branch Secretary by September 1, 2008.



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## Section / Branch Calendar

Year	2007			2008								
Month	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
Section BOD		8		10	13							
Coastal				8			8	13	10			9
Eastern	18	15		17	21	20	17	15		17		18
Northern		15		23								
Southern	16	26	17									
Western	18	29	20	24								
Bulletin Deadline	31		31		29		30		30		31	