



Tacoma/Olympia Section
Civil Engineer
THE NEWSLETTER

M A R 2 0 0 8

MARCH
Luncheon Meeting

**Joint Meeting w/
SAME**
*(Society of Military
Engineers)*

THURSDAY, Mar. 13th

**The Liberty Inn, DuPont WA
Off I-5 at Exit 118, between
Olympia and Tacoma**

Welcome: 11:30am
Lunch: Noon
Program: 12:30-1:00pm

Lunch: \$16 **Cash or Checks,
please.**

**RSVP: Katie Bennett, City of
Tacoma, (253) 591-5760;
email:
kbennett2@cityoftacoma.or g
(mailto:kbennett2@cityoftacoma.org)
by COB March 7th**

Please note the section does
not have the ability to accept
credit cards.

Cash or Checks, please.

**National Guard Response to Western
Washington Storms**

Speaker: *to be announced*

THE JOINT OPERATIONS CENTER (JOC) ON CAMP MURRAY IS THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS HUB FOR THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD. THE EXCERPT BELOW WAS TAKEN FROM THE NATIONAL GUARD WEBSITE.

**Keeping It All
Connected - The
Joint Operations
Center in Action**

Story by Sgt. Emily Donigan - Posted
Dec, 2007

On December 2 a storm tore through western Washington causing severe flooding and damage across six counties. Thousands of people lost power and water. Hundreds of homes were damaged or destroyed. The JOC placed rapid response teams on alert. The following afternoon Governor Christine O. Gregoire signed a proclamation activating the Washington National Guard.

Within six hours of the proclamation being signed, three National Guard rapid response teams from Tacoma, Everett and Olympia were on site performing missions, said Master Sergeant Alfonso Cadena, the operations Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) in charge of the JOC. After last years flooding, the state organized five National Guard rapid response teams. Each team consists of at least 12 soldiers, four high water vehicles, one 5-ton wrecker, a high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle, life preservers, safety vests and a spot light. The Tacoma response team from 96th Brigade was the first National Guard team out. They assisted the Washington State Patrol set up traffic control points between Chehalis and Centralia on Interstate 5, which was flooded.

“Having the response team ready to

go, identified and with equipment, plus notifying them Sunday, put us ahead of the power curve,” said Cadena

By 5 a.m. December 4, approximately 270 soldiers from 1st Squadron, 303rd Cavalry, 81st Heavy Brigade Combat Team stood ready to handle any mission handed down from the JOC. Throughout the tumultuous week, those soldiers would be joined by an additional 200 Guardsmen from 81st Brigade, 96th Troop Command, 66th Theater Aviation Command and the Air National Guard.

Nearly 500 Guardsmen performed various missions across four counties in western Washington, said Cadena.

The National Guard was able to respond quickly and support the missions handed to them by the Emergency Management Division, said Cadena. They were able to get out there and help the public and everybody came back safe and sound.





Bernie Hargrave P.E.

OK, a quick brain-teaser: What do an OPAL project nomination, two old college friends reconnecting and a graduating engineer looking for work have in common? (Answer: A month in the life of the Tacoma-Olympia ASCE president!) This month it really hit home for me. Being president this year is a mixture of the big

and little events. I was surprised and pleased (in that order) by seeing the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge featured on the cover of Civil Engineering. National ASCE modified the OPAL nomination rules a few years ago to accelerate the process. Now, a project can be directly nominated by anyone to the national committee. While it solved the issue of timely recognition of projects, the process does leave local affiliations of ASCE, like Tacoma-Olympia Section, out of the picture and even out of the notification loop. The larger issue is a steady erosion of the local section's connection to the national society. I've made a note to discuss this and other issues in a closing article during my last month as president. For now, let's honor the recognition bestowed with the OPAL nomination on our colleagues involved in the bridge financing, planning, design and construction. The OPAL awards have grown in stature over a few short years. The OPAL awards really are the equivalent of the Oscar's for civil engineering achievement. Congratulations to the Tacoma Narrows Bridge Team.

I admit receiving more poignant, immediate gratification when an engineer from California was looking for an old college friend who is a section member. By passing along the engineer's contact information to his friend while respecting his friend's confidentiality, the request was fulfilled. (It's up to the friend to make the contact if he wants to).

A flurry of other small events has made this month fulfilling for me.

1. A Midwest graduate engineer -- whose resume we included in last month's newsletter -- sent us a thank you to say a firm had contacted him for employment.

2. We received letters from two worthy groups who our section supports with a modest donation and much large bounty of volunteer time; from St. Martin's civil engineering students and the Math-Engineering-Science-Achievement (MESA) program for Tacoma /South Puget Sound. Excerpts from their letters are included to share with you the success of our local affiliations.

All the best,

Bernie Hargrave

2007-2008 Tac/Oly Section President

Position Wanted/Position Open

Are you looking for an engineering position? Do you have an engineering position open and would like to have as many qualified applicants as possible apply? Consider placing an ad in our newsletter for some extra coverage to qualified firms and engineers.

For more information contact any board member or Bernie Hargrave, President.

Requests For Assistance:

🍏 NEW ORLEANS UNIVERSITY sent a letter requesting assistance for their concrete canoe this year. If you want to help financially, please let me know and I'll pass along their info.

🍏 ASCE has teamed with ENGINEERS-WITHOUT-BORDERS. National ASCE directly alerted each of us about a time-sensitive opportunity to assist Engineers-Without-Borders. While the alert came too late to repeat in the newsletter, Engineers-Without-Borders is a worthy organization that can always use our help. Here is the contact information if you would like to assist them: [_www.ewb-usa.org_](http://www.ewb-usa.org) (<http://www.ewb-usa.org/>) or learn about the partnership with ASCE: www.asce.org/ewb

See Your AD Here!

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Contact:

Bernie Hargrave

Bernard.L.Hargrave.Jr@nrcs02.usace.army.mil

SECTION CALENDAR and ENGINEERING RESOURCES



Section Calendar

Tacoma/Olympia ASCE Section Meetings/Activities

March – Joint Luncheon Meeting
with Society of Military Engineers (SAME)

APRIL - Honors & Awards with
Legislative Update

MAY - Field Trip to Port of Tacoma

*DATE/TIMES/LOCATIONS TO BE
ANNOUNCED/VERIFIED

Tacoma/Olympia ASCE Board Meetings:

Local Board Meetings are open and generally held the **first Monday of the month** at 5:30pm. Locations vary. **Please check the WEB site, this calendar, or contact the president for confirmation.**

Monday February 4rd, 6:00pm, Red Lobster, Tacoma; off I-5, 72nd St Exit.

<http://sections.asce.org/tacoly/tacoly.htm>

Younger Member Forum Activities And Update

Younger Member Newsletter
www.asce.org/inside/cym_pubs.cfm

Upcoming Events & Activities

For more information about our
Younger Member programs, contact:
Brook Maples...brookm@gmail.com

TRANSPEED Courses

For a complete list of courses, visit the website at <http://www.engr.washington.edu/epp/Transpeed/index.html> for specific course descriptions and dates. Click on the specific course link to view the course outline.

or contact:

Julie Smith

Engineering Professional Programs

Phone: 206-543-5539

Toll-Free: 1-866-791-1275

2007 Professional Development Short Courses

For a complete description of the course and registration information visit our website <http://www.engr.washington.edu> or call us at: **Engineering Professional Programs, University of Washington, phone: 206.543.5539 (fax) 206-543-2352 or (toll free) 1.866.791.1275**

Stephanie Strom, Program Mgr:

ssstrom@u.washington.edu

(direct) 206-685-9682

Stacy Williamson, Prog. Coord.

stacyw@u.washington.edu

(direct) 206-543-5743

Continuing Ed

For scheduled seminars in your geographic area are available on ASCE's website at www.asce.org/conted/seminars.

These in-depth, practice-oriented programs are produced by ASCE's Continuing Education Department and may be of interest to many ASCE members in your Sections and Branches. We would greatly appreciate if you would consider posting information on these seminars in your newsletters and on your websites.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact:

Kelly Jarvis, Continuing Education Registrar at kjarvis@asce.org or

Michael Cook at mcook@asce.org.

See Your AD Here!

Advertise in our newsletter!

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Contact:

Bernie Hargrave...

Bernard.L.Hargrave.Jr@nws02.usace.army.mil



Tacoma/Olympia Section Board 2007 - 2008

<http://sections.asce.org/tacoly/html/board.htm>

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Bruce McDonald...253.830.5337

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brookm@gmail.com

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rswanson@skillings.com or

richardswanson@comcast.net



We're on the web!

<http://sections.asce.org/tacoly/tacoly.htm>

For address changes/corrections, notify the Editor or the WEBmaster.

Thank YOU! Tacoma/Olympia Section

Following are two thank you letters we recently received.

From SAINT MARTIN'S UNIVERSITY

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the ASCE Tacoma-Olympia Section for the generous donation you have made towards the Saint Martin's University ASCE student chapter. Please know that the funds you have given will be put to good use in both the material costs for the concrete canoe and steel bridge and the travel costs associated with attending the 2008 Pacific Northwest Conference to be held at Portland State University this coming April.

The construction projects we have taken upon have progressed steadily thus far. The Concrete Canoe team hopes to finish the fabrication of the forms and place reinforcement soon. Members of the Steel Bridge team have completed their design and are moving towards fabrication. We are planning on having a Surveying Team attend this year's competition as well.

This year looks extremely promising with great leadership taking the helm and enthusiastic members willing to contribute to all of the projects. We hope to update you on the progress of the project throughout the year.

Again, thank you for your generosity. If you have any questions about the progress of the canoe or bridge, as well as any of our other projects, please feel free to contact us.

*Sincerely,
Floraliza Bornasal
SMU ASCE Treasurer"*

From MESA TACOMA/SOUTH PUGET SOUND MATHEMATICS ENGINEERING SCIENCE ACHIEVEMENT

"Tacoma/South Puget Sound Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (TSPS MESA) would like to thank you for your commitment to our program over the years. With your many financial and in-kind contributions, TSPS MESA students were given an opportunity to have an experience that sparked their interest in mathematics and science and they were encouraged to pursue a college education.

As one of our partners, you made it possible for TSPS MESA to serve over six hundred MESA elementary, middle and high school students in Pierce and Thurston Counties last year. We are proud to report that 96% of TSPS MESA high school seniors go to college with over 60% of those students earning university degrees in engineering and science at a rate that is nearly five times greater than the national average.

One of our final projects for the year includes MESA Day, where we are expecting over 300 elementary, middle, and high school MESA students who have been working on hands-on science projects such as balsa wood bridges and trebuchets all year and will be competing with these projects March 25, 2008 on Pacific Lutheran University's (PLU) campus. We will also be hosting our annual Awards Celebration, May 22, 2008 at PLU, for which we have been privileged to have your organization's support in the past.

Thank you again. We are honored to be affiliated with an organization such as the American Society of Civil Engineering, an organization committed to giving back to the community and enriching the lives of MESA students and their families.

*Sincerely,
Brenda S. Tisdale
Center Director"*