



American Society of Civil Engineers

Our web site: <http://sections.asce.org/columbia/index.html>

# Columbia Section

Since October 10, 1950

## Newsletter

January, 2004

### Columbia Section Board

**Bernard (Ben) W. Volk, President**  
(509)-783-2144 (B)  
bvolk@jub.com

**Aaron Meilleur, President-Elect**  
(509)-540-2040 (B)  
aaron.meilleur@hdrinc.com

**Byron Perry, Vice President**  
(509)-546-2040 (B)  
bperry@hdrinc.com

**Paul Harmsen, Secretary/Treasurer**  
(509)-374-4248 (B)  
pharmsen@mackaysposito.com

**Eric Schmieman, Past-President**  
(509)-375-6484 (B)  
eric.schmieman@pnl.gov

**Donald P. Kurkjian, Webmaster**  
(509)-371-2218 (B)  
Dkurkjian@yahoo.com

**Theodore W. Pooler, Yakima Branch President**  
(509)-966-7000 (B)  
tpooler@hlacivil.com

**Lawrence (Larry) A. Gaddis, Tri-Cities Director**  
(509)-627-4362 (H)  
lgaddis@bechtel.com

*Walla Walla Director - Open*

*Pendleton/LaGrande Director - Open*

*Yakima Director - Open*

**Delbert (Del) L. Ballard, Historian**  
(509)-946-6401 (H)  
delballard@sbcglobal.net

**Michael D. Hall, Newsletter Editor**  
(509)-628-0257 (H)  
michael.hall46@verizon.net

**Simeon Francis, Student Contact**  
(509)-527-7575 (B)  
simeon.a.francis@nww01.usace.army.mil

**Donald P. Kurkjian, PNC Director**  
(509)-371-2218 (B)  
Dkurkjian@yahoo.com

### President's Remarks:

Dear Members:

Happy New Year to all! I don't know about you, but the recent cold and snow we have been having reminds me of growing up in Montana. Those were the days when I walked uphill to school every day – Montana Tech was up on a hill – and I only went for a run outside if it was above -20°F. Now my cold threshold has risen somewhat, and I prefer to stay inside when the mercury goes below 0°F.

Later this week we are all going to get a chance to see how the storm drainage facilities we've designed handle a major melt off of our recent precipitation. Warm temperatures combined with southwest winds could prove to be overwhelming for all except those that were very conservatively designed. Please be patient with the utility crews in the next few weeks in adapting to our winter weather. And be patient with you friendly neighborhood engineer as well! All of our priorities tend to get rearranged when inclement weather drops in on us.

If you were absent at the December 10, 2003 meeting you missed an excellent presentation by Mike Norton with HDR Engineering, Inc. Mike gave us all the nitty-gritty details of the innovative techniques being employed to upgrade the City of Kennewick Water Treatment Plant. I think that all in attendance enjoyed Mike's presentation.

Please plan to attend the January 21, 2004 meeting to hear the rest of the story behind the Polo Club groundwater problem in W. Richland. Dee Burrie and Greg Lee will give us the technical details behind the localized groundwater problem that has caused some major concerns in the area. Leave your attorneys and politicians at home though; we will only be covering the technical details that engineers find interesting!

Again, Happy New Year and God Bless You All!

Sincerely,

Ben W. Volk, P.E.

*If you have a job without aggravation, you don't have a job. -- Malcom Forbes*

### Columbia Section January Meeting

**Date:** January 21, 2004, Wednesday, 11:30 am – 1:00 PM

**Place:** Shilo Inn, George Washington Way, Richland

**Meal:** Buffet (Chef's choice) ≈ \$10 per person.  
Please pay cash or check to treasurer at the meeting.

**Topic:** *The Polo Club Ground Water Condition in West Richland*

**Speakers:** Greg Lee and Dee Burrie, Shannon and Wilson, Tri-Cities.

RSVP to: Ben Volk, bvolk@jub.com or (509) 783-2144 by **January 19, 2004**.

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## National Engineers Week 2004 will be celebrated February 22-28.

The 2004 program is chaired this year by IEEE/IEEE-USA and Fluor Corporation. The best way to keep current is to periodically visit <http://www.eweek.org/>.

The Tri-Cities Chapter of Washington Society of Professional Engineers is taking nominations for Engineer of the Year Award. Presentation of the award will be at the Engineers Week Banquet in February. Completed nominee forms must be submitted to the Tri-Cities Chapter WSPE by February 13, 2004. Contact Ben Volk at 783-2144 for details.

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*The following article is from the December 22 edition of the CH2M Hill Hanford Group Newsletter*

### DeFigh-Price honored by civil engineering society

Cherri DeFigh-Price of CH2M Hill Hanford Group - Engineering Services has been approved to advance to the grade of Fellow in the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). This rare recognition is the highest technical grade in the organization and is attained by fewer than 5 percent of the society's members. The ASCE is the oldest national engineering society in the world, with more than 133,000 members. DeFigh-Price has been a member since she was in college and has served as an officer in the local section. She is also past chairman of the Pacific Northwest Council of the organization. DeFigh-Price was surprised to be accepted on her first application. "When I first saw the message, my thought was, 'Great, what did I forget?'," she said. As part of the application, she had to submit references from four other Fellows. The designation is so rare that she couldn't find four other Fellows in eastern Washington, forcing her to get the needed references from members in Alaska and Oregon. This is a significant achievement that is recognized throughout the engineering community, and DeFigh-Price is in good company — CH2M HILL Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ralph Peterson also has Fellow status.

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## Structural Technical Group launched ...

Structural Technical Group (STG) of the Columbia Section held their first Board meeting on December 12 at Shilo Inn, Richland. At this the following are the Board Members: Indra Ghosh, Chair, Andrew Hsi, Deputy Chair, and Susan Farnworth, Secretary. New members are welcome. You do not have to be a member with ASCE to a member of the Structural Technical Group. So please join the group. STG's mission is to organize monthly or bi-monthly meetings; organize seminars, lectures and workshops; organize joint meetings with Structural Engineers Association of WA, ACI, etc.; responding to community's need to help in crisis, such as tornado or earthquake damage; encourage younger engineers to join the group; go to local schools and demonstrate structural engineering features; organize local bridge building competition; etc. Please contact Indra ([ighosh2000@msn.com](mailto:ighosh2000@msn.com)), Andrew ([ahsi@bechtel.com](mailto:ahsi@bechtel.com)) or Susan ([susan\\_k\\_farnworth@rl.gov](mailto:susan_k_farnworth@rl.gov)) and join the group.

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## West Point Bridge Design Contest for 2004 (for US Students Age 13 - Grade 12) Begins ...

The West Point Bridge Design Contest is a nationwide Internet-based competition intended to promote math, science, and technology education in U. S. middle schools and high schools. The contest provides students with a realistic introduction to engineering through an engaging, hands-on design experience. Participation is free. All U. S. students age 13 through grade 12 are eligible. Contestants may compete individually or in teams of two.

### Contest Schedule

**Qualifying Round Begins: January 8, 2004**

**Final day for design submissions: April 5, 2004**

**Semi-Final Round (Top ten teams from each zone): April 17, 2004**

**Final Round (Top five teams): May 14, 2004**

For details: <http://bridgecontest.usma.edu>

### How Students Enter the National Contest

As soon as possible after the Qualifying Round begins on January 8, 2004, a student who wishes to enter the West Point Bridge Design Contest should do the following:

1. **Form a team.** A team may consist of either one or two students, though teams of two are strongly encouraged. A student who wishes to compete individually should register as a one-person team.
2. **Download the West Point Bridge Designer 2004 software** from the contest website at <http://bridgecontest.usma.edu/download.htm>. **The software is free!**
3. **Install the West Point Bridge Designer 2004** on an IBM-compatible computer running Windows 98 or better.
4. **Use the West Point Bridge Designer 2004 to design a bridge.** To be eligible for submission to the contest, the design must pass the WPBD simulated load test and should be as inexpensive as possible. Once the design is complete, save it as a "bridge design file."
5. **Register for the contest** at <http://bridgecontest.usma.edu/login.htm>. During registration, the team creates a Team Name and password and then receives its own Team Home Page on the contest website.
6. **Log in to the Team Home Page and upload the bridge design file for judging.** As soon as the upload is complete, the web-based judging system checks to ensure that the bridge design passes the WPBD load test and then determines the team's contest standing, based on the cost of the design. The Team Home Page is immediately updated to display the team's current contest standing.

7. Use the **West Point Bridge Designer 2004 to improve the design**, and then submit improved designs for judging. Again, the team logs in and submits all designs through the Team Home Page. There is no limit to the number of designs a team may submit during the Qualifying Round.

At the end of the Qualifying Round, the top ten eligible teams from each contest zone will be invited to compete in the Semi-Final Round. The top five semi finalist teams will compete in the Final Round.

### Upcoming TRANSPEED courses from the University of Washington

The TRANSPEED program at the University of Washington is pleased to announce its Winter/Spring schedule of courses. TRANSPEED is a professional development program of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at the University of Washington. .  
Upcoming TRANSPEED Courses

To view specific course descriptions and faculty check the TRANSPEED website at: <http://www.engr.washington.edu/epp/transpeed/>

For questions please contact: Christy Roop Pack

Program Manager

University of Washington

Engineering Professional Programs

10303 Meridian Ave N #301

Seattle, WA 98133

206-543-5539 or 1-866-791-1275 (Toll Free)

206-543-2352 FAX

[croop@u.washington.edu](mailto:croop@u.washington.edu)

Roadway Safety, Analysis, Evaluation and Programming January 5-6, 2004 Seattle	Basic Highway Capacity for Engineers and Planners January 7-9, 2004 Seattle
Determining Contract Working Days January 29, 2004 Seattle, March 9, 2004 Seattle	Managing Consultants February 3, 2004 Seattle, May 11, 2004 Lacey
Concrete Bridge Design February 10-12, 2004 Seattle	Work Zone Traffic Control Plan (TCP) Design February 18-20, 2004 Seattle
Traffic Signal Timing and Operations February 23-25, 2004 Lacey	Techniques of Pavement Rehabilitation February 24-26, 2004 Seattle
Urban Street Design March 1-3, 2004 Seattle	Work Zone Traffic Control Plan (TCP) Design March 23-25, 2004 Lacey, June 14-16, 2004 Spokane
Fundamentals of Traffic Engineering March 17-19, 2004 Seattle	Legal Liability for Transportation Professionals April 5-6, 2004 Wenatchee, April 8-9, 2004 Seattle
Managing Scope, Schedule and Budget March 31-April 2, 2004 Seattle	Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) April 14-16, 2004 Seattle
Stormwater Engineering for Transportation Professionals April 20-22, 2004 Seattle	Technical Communication for Transportation Professionals April 27-28, 2004 Seattle
Traffic Calming: Techniques and Management May 3-5, 2004 Seattle	Traffic Engineering Operations June 9-11, 2004 Lacey
Traffic Signal Design May 26-28, 2004 Lacey	

Michael D. Hall, M ASCE  
ASCE Columbia Section  
Newsletter Editor  
1016 Sunstone Ct.  
Richland, WA 99352

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