

# SEAI NEWSLETTER

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF IDAHO  
P.O. Box 8733, Boise, ID 83707  
WWW.SEAIDAHO.ORG

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

By Scott Soule

Welcome to the first SEAI newsletter in a long while. Our hope in producing this communication is to reestablish a constructive dialogue between SEAI and the Structural Engineers in the state of Idaho. To start, I have spent considerable time talking to my peers and revisiting SEAI's professional obligations.

As I see it, SEAI's duty is:

- To provide a forum for ideas that affect us as professionals
- To offer educational opportunities in the form of monthly evening presentations and semi-annual seminars
- To represent the voice of structural engineers within the state of Idaho
- To ensure that we maintain the highest standards of structural engineering within the state

As a group, we have done an sufficient job of fulfilling these goals in the past. For those of us who attend SEAI's monthly meetings, we have certainly benefited from the camaraderie and exchange of ideas that naturally takes place. Sarah McClendon, our program chairman, has done an excellent job putting together varied and relevant presentations.

However, I believe we've fallen woefully short in other areas. How many of us have taken an active role in the state building code adoption process? How many of us have voiced our opinions on state licensing issues such as continuing education requirements, reciprocity with neighboring states, or demanding that unethical practices be disciplined appropriately? How many of us have established a positive relationship with our local building departments to ensure an ally in the process of constructing quality projects, instead of antagonism that's simply par for the course? These relationships

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can help build bridges from the engineering profession to our communities.

These activities may not take a high priority in our daily struggle to grow our businesses and meet our deadlines; but they do impact us. Now, more than ever, there is a need for our profession to come together to address the issues that will determine our course in the future. There is a need for us, as structural engineers, to stand up and champion the ideas that will advance our profession. I believe that SEAI (which is each of us) has a role to play in addressing these issues over the coming months.

It is our goal to initiate activities toward establishment of a Structural Engineering Practice Act. We will begin a discussion with the State Board of P.E. & P.L.S. to address the issues mentioned above. We will encourage our membership to create an association with local and state building officials to educate them on the issues that are vital to ensure the health and safety of the public.

We are most appreciative of the volunteers that are making this newsletter possible, and we hope you enjoy their efforts as well. This is certainly a step in the right direction of fulfilling the obligations of our association. Finally, I challenge each of you to become involved in these matters that affect and interest you; our place in the industry will be decided by your efforts.

## ATC UPDATE

By Bob Hamilton

On October 24 the Board of Directors of the Applied Technology Council (ATC) held their quarterly meeting in Denver, CO. in conjunction with the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations (NCSEA) annual meeting. While SEAI was not able to send a representative to the NCSEA meeting we are represented on the ATC Board through the Western Council of Structural Engineers Associations (WCSEA), which currently holds two seats. At this time I, as a representative from SEAI, hold one of these two seats. The other seat is held by a representative from SEA Arizona.

ATC is a nonprofit organization whose home office is in Redwood City, CA. Their purpose has been to coordinate research and then publish the results. Up to this point the vast majority of their research has been centered on seismic loadings, identification of seismic damage and repair methodologies. One of their newest products is ATC 20i a wireless version of their Postearthquake Building Safety Evaluation Procedures designed to be run on a PDA. This software is designed to be used after a seismic event to allow engineers to do rapid visual inspections of buildings. This product may be used as a stand-alone or may be linked to a central server allowing post disaster hazard teams to evaluate the situation in real time and assign assets accordingly.

Another product, just about to be hit the market, is the *Wind Design Guide* based on the provisions of ASCE-7. This Guide, the second

Guide produced by ATC (the first covers Floor Vibrations), is designed to aid the engineer in wind calculations. This document is complimentary with the ASCE Guide by Mehta and Delehay, as well as the Guide being produced by SEA Washington. The ATC Wind Guide will be available at the beginning of 2004. This and other products may be found at [www.atcouncil.org](http://www.atcouncil.org).

The creation of the Wind Guide heralds a shift in mission for ATC. ATC's goal is to expand into work covering a wide variety of hazards, both natural and man-made. FEMA, a major supporter of ATC, will soon be publishing a series of texts on designing for Blast Effects. Some of this work, and at least one of the publications, have been spearheaded by ATC. The text titled Primer for Design of Commercial Buildings to Mitigate Terrorist Acts will be available through ATC shortly.

This mission shift has generated another effect. At this time there is a motion before the ATC Board to strip WCSEA of our two seats and given them to NCSEA. One seat will be entailed to be filled from a western state (or province) other than California, but not necessarily a WCSEA member state. This move has to do with ATC wishing to become a national source of information, and the idea that WCSEA is not as significant as NCSEA is going to become.

Please submit questions or comments about the ATC to [RHamilton@boisestate.edu](mailto:RHamilton@boisestate.edu).



## EVENT CALENDAR

The **December Holiday Event** will be celebrated at the **Steelhead Hockey Game** Wednesday December 17, 2003: Steelheads vs. Bakersfield Condors.

Meet at the Sports Zone upstairs at the Bank of America Center for pre-game appetizers and drinks between 5 and 7 pm and then go

down and watch a rousing game of hockey! The price is \$25 per person. Seats are limited so make your reservations soon! To RSVP, please call Betty Bufford at 383-6258.

Please submit suggestions or comments about program content to Sarah McClendon at [smcclendon@TreasureValleyEngineers.com](mailto:smcclendon@TreasureValleyEngineers.com)

## CODE UPDATES

The **SEAI Codes Committee** has existed largely due to the energies of Bryce Stapley; we appreciate his ongoing efforts. Bryce was instrumental in issuing a letter of opinion from SEAI to building officials, architects, and engineers, on the snow load provisions of the newly adopted 2000 IBC. While no comment has been received to date (which has been taken as a sign of the document's accuracy), we feel that it was an important step voicing our expertise in the matter. (Access the *Snow Loads Letter* on the SEAI website,

<http://www.seaidaho.org>)

In the coming months you will see increased activity from this committee as we endeavor to expand our voice in those matters that affect Structural Engineers in the state.

Stay tuned in to the web site for additional updates.

"We shape our buildings:  
thereafter they shape us."

Winston Churchill

## MEMBERSHIP

SEAI currently has 81 members and is still growing. We would like welcome the following new members:

| <u>Name</u>       | <u>Employer</u>           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Ash Hobbs         | Flores Lund Consultants   |
| Dennis Montgomery | Treasure Valley Engineers |

We regret that Dwight Utz has resigned as Membership Chairman effective at the end of December. Scott Soule would like to thank Dwight, who "has been an active and integral part of SEAI for many years; we have all gained from his participation. We thank him for his

service and look forward to seeing him at future meetings."

Mike Brown has agreed to fulfill the duties of the Membership Chair for the remainder of the year. We are actively seeking a Membership Chair to get involved on the ground floor of this growing enterprise, Mike would love to hear from you at [brownmk@trusjoist.com](mailto:brownmk@trusjoist.com)

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

Sarah McClendon will teach a course in Masonry Design in the spring of 2004 at BSU. The course will meet Monday and Wednesday 4:40 - 5:55 pm in the Micron Engineering Center, Room 206. The course is a 3-credit (semester) course offered at either the Undergraduate or Graduate level.

For those wishing to take the undergraduate version the course is CE 497 Section 003 and will cost \$149 per credit hour plus a \$30 application fee. Access the BSU website at:

<http://www.boisestate.edu/>



**Step 1.** Click on **PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS** (upper left)

**Step 2.** Click on **ADMISSIONS OFFICE HOME PAGE**

**Step 3.** Click on **APPLICATION PROCESS**

**Step 4.** Click on **NON-DEGREE SEEKING**

Or visit

<http://admissions.boisestate.edu/nondegree.htm>

## GETTING INVOLVED

### THE SEASON OF GIVING

By Ash Hobbs

As the holiday season approaches, people become more aware of giving to those less fortunate. On the heels of the recent economic recession and high unemployment, this holiday season of giving may be especially important. As structural engineers, it is not always enough to serve just our clients – giving back to our community should be a high priority as well. But moreover, giving to the community should not be a tradition of the Christmas season only. Engineers should make giving to the community a yearlong priority.

Whether you have a few hours a month or want to dedicate some time long term, here are a few opportunities to get active in the community.

Don't see a good fit? Check out [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org)

**Habitat for Humanity** – Building homes for low-income families, Habitat for Humanity is an ideal charitable activity for structural engineers. What better way to learn about home building than getting dirty and doing the work yourself? The Boise affiliate has built 21 houses in its 13 years of existence and currently has 2 homes in the works. But before you strap on your steel-toed boots and dig your hammer out of the closet, you'll need to attend one of Habitat's orientation meetings.

Orientations are held at 10 am on the second Saturday of the month at 3040 Elder St (near the Boise Airport). You may not be assigned right away to a construction site, but there are plenty of other volunteer positions needed. Call 331-2916 for more information, or point your browser to <http://www.hfhboise.org/>

#### **Support a Member of the Armed Forces** –

Politics aside, many members of the armed forces are making great sacrifices this holiday season. Check out the Department of Defense website ([http://www.defendamerica.gov/support\\_troops.html](http://www.defendamerica.gov/support_troops.html)) for a plethora of charities available for our service men and women. Whether it's a monetary donation, a food gift certificate, or a calling card, know that your donation will mean a lot to someone just knowing that they are not forgotten. For those who would like to be more hands-on, you can donate blood at the local Red Cross (254 S. Cole Rd, 208-947-4357, <http://www.redcrossidaho.org>), or volunteer at the local VA Hospital (500 West Fort St, 208-422-1000).

**Idaho Humane Society** – (208) 342-3508.  
4775 W. Dorman St., Boise, ID 83705  
<http://www.idahohumanesociety.com/>

**TechXPlore** – Become a technology mentor. They are especially seeking engineering professionals who can volunteer one hour a week. <http://www.techxplore.org/>



The SEAI Newsletter will be published quarterly in 2004. All newsletter submissions are welcome from the SEAI community. Have a suggestion, feature, link or product review? Please contact the newsletter editor, Allie Smith-Hobbs, at [alliesmithhobbs@yahoo.com](mailto:alliesmithhobbs@yahoo.com) or 208.884.8560

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*Visit us on the web:*  
[www.seaidaho.org](http://www.seaidaho.org)

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## THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING COMMUNITY

Structural Engineers Association International  
<http://www.seaint.org/>

Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors  
<http://www2.state.id.us/ipels/>

Engineering Forum  
<http://www.eng-tips.com/>

Design Build Magazine (McGraw-Hill)  
<http://www.designbuildmag.com/>

Applied Technology Council  
<http://www.atcouncil.org>



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