

# SEAI NEWSLETTER

Jan. 2009



## Structural Engineers Association of Idaho

P.O. Box 8733, Boise, ID 83707

[www.seaidaho.org](http://www.seaidaho.org)

### SEAI Mission Statement:

"To promote and enhance the Structural Engineering profession in Idaho by educating the public about the activities of Structural Engineers and their benefit to society and by providing professional development and support to SEAI members that is relevant, reliable, and inspirational to modern engineering practices."

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## SEAI MEETING — JAN 21<sup>ST</sup> — THURSDAY



Please RSVP to Soren Jensen at [soren.w.jensen@gmail.com](mailto:soren.w.jensen@gmail.com) by noon the Monday before the meeting with your entrée selection. We will turn no one away at the door, but if we do not receive your RSVP on time we cannot guarantee that there will be any food for you to eat! Please note that, regardless of whether you eat or not, you will still need to pay meeting fees, so get those RSVP's in! **Also, if you RSVP and decided not to show, Murphy's will still charge SEAI for your lunch and SEAI will politely pass this charge on to you.**

Murphy's will be sponsoring a monthly drawing for a complimentary Sunday Brunch Pass for 2 (\$32.00 value). Everyone who attends will have their name entered from the sign up sheet, and the prize will be awarded at the end of the luncheon. All you have to do is show up for a chance to win!

### Meeting Location:

Murphy's Seafood & Steakhouse  
1555 Broadway Ave.  
Boise, ID 83706  
[www.primedime.com](http://www.primedime.com)

### Food Entrées:

- 1) Chicken Caesar Salad
- 2) Whiskey Chicken
- 3) Beef Chop Burger

**Meeting Focus:** Seismic Retrofits

**Speaker:** Dave Jackson

### Schedule:

Social:	11:45 am – 12:00 pm
Lunch:	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Program:	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

### Cost Per Person:

Member:	\$15
Non-Member:	\$20
Full Time Student:	\$10

## Announcements:

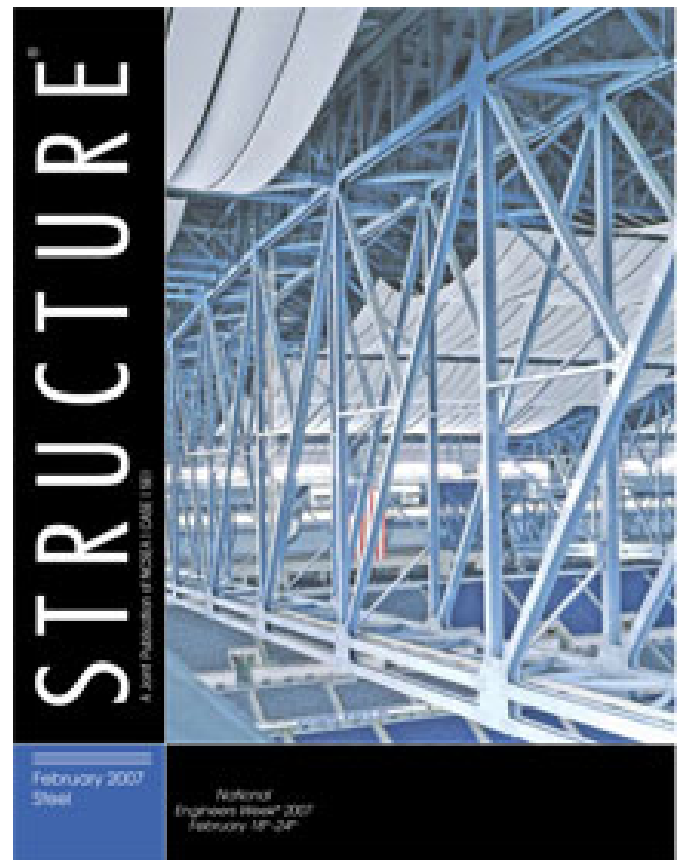
### SPEAKER BIO

*Dave Jackson, CFM; State Hazard Mitigation Officer; Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security:*

Dave is responsible for the natural hazards risk reduction grant program, mitigation planning, risk analysis, and the earthquake hazards program. He has been with the Bureau since November 1998. Prior to his current assignment Dave served as the State Training and Exercise Officer. Dave graduated with a B.S. in Emergency Administration and Disaster Planning from the University of North Texas in 1997. Dave is an active member of the Western States Seismic Policy Council, International Association of Emergency Managers and the Association of State Floodplain Managers. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association. Dave was born and raised in Boise Idaho. He enjoys traveling, photography and American history.

### STRUCTURES MAGAZINE!

As part of your SEAI membership you should be receiving **STRUCTURE® magazine** in the mail every month. If you are not, please verify that you have paid your SEAI dues this year and then send your name and mailing address to Sarah McClendon at [sarah@mccleendonengineering.com](mailto:sarah@mccleendonengineering.com)



**A WORD FROM THE SEAI BOARD**

*Article by Bruce Hess: Director*

The politically incorrect word on the street is that current engineering education sucks. Parents say that costs keep rising disproportionate to the general cost of living. Educators say that they are overworked, underpaid and asked to use obsolete or poorly maintained equipment. Students drop out at an alarming rate due to lack of interest or perceived relevance in what they thought would be an exciting career choice. Engineers say that they have to **retrain** young engineers at substantial investment before they become cost effective. The Governor says that it is going to get worse before it gets better. It just seems no one is happy.

I do not know how to fix any of these things. Maybe some of you do. I challenge us individually and as a group to put a mark in the sand and start taking baby steps to move it forward. We all have learned the result possible from integrating  $dx$ .

I do know from experience that you can get more engagement and excitement in engineering from an audience of third graders than you can from an audience of high school students. Maybe that shows my level of competence or maybe it is indicative of how we have failed to maintain excitement in learning. I recently reviewed an intermediate calculus course required for an engineering degree. It was presented by all things a math professor. It was very professionally done but without excitement or any mention of a practical application. Math professors have a passion for math and therefore may think math is an end in itself. I prefer to

think of math as a tool invented by an engineering type to solve a problem. Although neither viewpoint is exact, math taught by an engineer would be much more palatable to an engineering student. Excitement might grow.

As mentors and professionals we have a need to rethink the word **train**. We train dogs and perhaps we train technicians but do we want to train engineers? I prefer to help young engineers learn how to think and apply knowledge. Knowledge is relatively inexpensive. There are many good books and websites filled with knowledge. It is only through application that knowledge becomes invaluable.

Enough with my ramblings, I do not have an answer but only present an editorial meant to provoke those with alternate, perhaps profession changing, thoughts to weigh in. The collection of all our ideas may just sum to meaningful action.

Respectfully

Bruce Hess

**LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP WORK FOR YOU!**

We are looking for more speakers for our SEAI luncheon meetings. If you have any suggestions for future speakers, items of discussion or anything else that you think would be beneficial to the structural engineers attending SEAI meetings, please send your comments and ideas to Soren Jensen at [soren.w.jensen@gmail.com](mailto:soren.w.jensen@gmail.com) or by phone at 426-2026.

**EVENT CALENDAR**

- Jan. 21, 2010** Dave Jackson, Seismic Retrofits
- Feb. 18, 2010** Nacis Nitu, Pre-Fab Steel Truss Design & Mfr.

**PAST EVENTS**

- Nov. 19, 2009** Sarah McClendon, SEA Conferences
- Oct. 15, 2009** Tony Peterson, PNA Construction Technologies
- Sept. 17, 2009** Joel Levenberg, Structural Group – Strengthening Div.
- May 21, 2009** Larry Boyer, Vulcraft, Steel Joists
- Apr. 16, 2009** Eric Pugmire, Simpson Strong-Tie, New Products
- Mar. 19, 2009** Michael Mulnix, Hardy Frames, New Products
- Feb. 19, 2009** Holly Schaubert – Verco Steel Decking
- Jan. 15, 2009** Frank Lee – Givens Pursley, Engineering Liability Law
- Nov. 20, 2008** Kent Soulberg – NCSEA Conference

**GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR NEWSLETTER!**

The SEAI Newsletter is a monthly publication. Newsletter submissions are encouraged from the SEAI community. If you have a suggestion, feature, link, product review or anything else that may be of interest to the newsletter readers, please email them to our newsletter editor, David Sansotta, at [david.sansotta@core-engineering.net](mailto:david.sansotta@core-engineering.net)

JOIN US FOR OUR  
FAMOUS  
**2-FOR-1**  
HAPPY HOUR!

*Sunday–Friday: 4–7pm*  
*Saturday: Noon–7pm*

Featuring Drafts  
and House Wine  
& Well Drinks  
Plus 2-for-1 Appetizers



**MURPHY'S**  
SEAFOOD & STEAKHOUSE

**WISH TO PLACE AN AD IN THE NEWSLETTER?**

If so, please contact our Treasurer, Wilson Antoniuk, at [wantoniuk@redbuilt.com](mailto:wantoniuk@redbuilt.com) or at 395-2458.

**Monthly Rates for Advertising**

- Standard Business Card.....\$50
- Quarter Page.....\$90
- Half Page.....\$120
- Full Page.....\$150

*10% discount for ads running multiple months*

## STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING LINKS

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**FEATURED LINK:** *New Bridge to Span Mississippi River*  
<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/content/view/27501/>

Applied Technology Council - <http://www.atccouncil.org>

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

City of Boise Sp. Insp. Checklist – [http://www.cityofboise.org/pds/applications/Building/Special\\_Inspections.pdf](http://www.cityofboise.org/pds/applications/Building/Special_Inspections.pdf)

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

Engineering & (Bi-Weekly Newsletter) - <http://www.engineeringand.com>

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

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

Structural Engineers Association of Utah - <http://www.seau.org/>

Structural Engineers Association of Washington - <http://www.seaw.org/>

Structural Engineers of Oregon - <http://www.seao.org/main.htm>

Structural Engineers of Idaho - <http://www.seaidaho.org>

Design Load Guidelines – <http://www.idabo.org/loads.htm>

