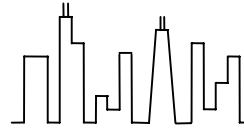


CHICAGO SECTION NEWSLETTER

January 2005



Newsletter of the Chicago Section of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc. - Founded Spring 1987 - www.chicagosme.org

MEETING: Tuesday, January 18, 2005

Topic: "EQUIPMENT AUTOMATION FOR IMPROVED PRODUCTION:
Automation of a Clamshell Dredge for Underwater
Sand & Gravel Mining"

Guest Speaker: Chris Nelson, Vice President, Rohr Corp. &
Allan Martin, Automation Engineer, Rohr Corp.



Time: 5:15 PM Social Hour
6:00 PM Dinner *Please - We need advance reservations! See below.*
7:00 PM Speaker *We expect to be done by 8:00 PM.*

Place: Ramada Inn at Burr Ridge, IL 300 South Frontage Road, Burr Ridge, IL. 630-325-2900

Directions: From I-55: Exit # 276A - County Line Road South, go to the first traffic light
Turn Right, then the road turns an immediate right; follow the road
around until you are parallel to the freeway, past the Extended Stay America.
The Ramada will be another 150 yards ahead on the left.

From I-294: Exit on I-55 Westbound. County Line Road will be the next exit

From I-88 & I-355: Exit to I-355 southbound, go to end of freeway at I-55
Head east toward Chicago: County Line Road is just east of Kingery
Highway (IL # 83)

Menu: Service will be restaurant style, with **your choice of two entrées:** **Stuffed
Chicken Breast**, breast of chicken filled with our homemade cranberry
almond sage dressing, topped with Supreme sauce; or **New Zealand
Orange Roughy**, broiled, tender flaky fillet served with citrus hollandaise
Dinner will include an appetizer, salad, vegetable, potato or rice and dessert. A
vegetarian plate is available on request.

Cost: \$25 for dinner/meeting for Members, \$30 for Non-Members. Science teachers or professors
are considered guests of the Section and will get dinner free. Student's dinners are only \$5.
If you are coming RSVP; **PLEASE.** Call or e-mail either
Gordie Stevens of Patrick Engineering at 630-795-7429 gstevens@patrickengineering.com
Rick Ackermann of Patrick Engineering at 630-795-7246 rackermann@patrickengineering.com
And give us your dinner selection (see above) we can do some late reservations, but...

From the Chairman:

It never seems to fail. I wake up one morning in a fog and realize that another year has totally passed by. Well, it's 2005. Before I doze off again, only to reawaken on that foggy morning in 2006, I'd better say a few things. The Chicago Section of SME has gotten off to another good start this meeting (2004-2005) year. Our new venue seems to be a popular choice. We have had very good turnouts at our meetings, and have already been addressed by a Henry Krumb lecturer. Our finances are in good condition and our Section morale seems to be increasing. The local mining industry, to which most of us are beholden to in one form or another, has shown steady growth the past couple of years. The mining industry in general is beginning to see a significant decrease in the labor pool. As a result, quality technical jobs are becoming increasingly competitive in the industry. That's likely to be good for most of us in one form or another. Our GEMS-related donations will increase this year, with support going to the Science teachers Workshop and Chicagoland Engineers Week, among others. (Please alert us to some other worthy causes to consider.) We are now accepting corporate sponsors on our Section website. Money contributed by sponsors will go directly to help fund our GEM activities and as a benefit, dependent upon the size of the donation, get a corporate link on our website (with or without a logo). Well, Happy New Year to all! I hope it will be a good one ... z z z z.



-Rip "Gordie" Van Winkle

From the Program Chairman

At This Meeting:

“EQUIPMENT AUTOMATION For IMPROVED PRODUCTION Automation of a Clamshell Dredge for Underwater Sand & Gravel Mining”

Automated deep dredge systems allow the producer to safely and efficiently reach deep reserves of sand and gravel once thought unattainable. This approach maximizes existing mining permits, streamlines operations and will allow a producer to maximize his reserves for a current property, or to re-mine older deposits of sand and gravel already permitted. The speakers will describe what was done at one dredge operation, and what automation can do for the operator, including cost advantages. There are several of these operations in the northern Illinois /southern Wisconsin S&G market.

The Speakers

Chris Nelson, VP, GM Rohr Corporation. Chris has been with the Rohr Corporation since 1990 covering all facets of the organization from Sales to service to site supervisor to operator training.

Allan Martin, Electrical Engineer Rohr Corporation. Allan has been with the Rohr Corporation since 1999. Allan's background includes System design & automation, PLC programming, drives and networking.

Rohr Corporation manufactures floating clamshell and bucketladder dredges as well as floating conveyor belts and processing equipment. Rohr is a leader in deep underwater mining technology for sand & gravel, with US offices and manufacturing facilities located in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Last Meeting

Our November Speaker was **Marshall S. Miller**, Chairman and CEO of Marshall Miller & Associates, a geological and engineering firm that he founded in 1976. He is also the 2004 Henry Krumb lecturer for the SME. Mr. Miller delivered an updated lecture “The Expectation for Coal: Is Our Government and the Coal Industry

Prepared?” From his view, our country is looking at a situation where adequate quantification and qualification of our Nation's coal reserves is increasingly being compromised. While there has been major increases in government funding in Clean Coal Technology and in research on Carbon Sequestration, for more than a decade there have been cutbacks in funding for other domestic coal related programs and personnel. This paper presented the growing concerns and dichotomies that continue to increase and address the decreasing number of fossil fuel programs in Federal and State programs. At the end of his talk he presented a synopsis of recent trends in the coal industry as part of a general upswing in the mining industry being driven by Chinese markets.

Editors's Note: Sobering facts from the Intertech sponsored Met Coke World Summit Nov. 2004: The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has noted that of the world's 214 billion tonnes of (reportedly) recoverable met coal, the U.S. figure is 44 billion. When the USGS conducted intensive spot evaluations in central Appalachia--home of much of the U.S.' met coal--of that figure it came up with 15% as the likely truly recoverable fraction of the tonnage heretofore cited as recoverable.

SPEAKER FOR THE FEBRUARY MEETING:

Jason Ryan of Austin Power will be speaking on Tuesday, February 22nd on Practical Blasting: State-of-the Art in Drilling and Blasting. This will be a technical talk for those interested in the nuts and bolts and what it can do for your bottom line. Jason is an engineer who has over ten years of field experience in blasting, a lot of it in the Midwest in conditions that we are working with. What he has to say may be helpful at your operation.

If you would like to present a talk or have a subject matter that you are interested in hearing presented at a meeting, please give **Frank Kendorski**, of Agapito Associates who is our Program Chair. He can be reached at:

e-mail: frank@agapito.com
phone: 630-792-1520

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

For your schedules

2005 SME Annual Meeting & Exhibit

February 28 - March 2
Salt Lake City, Utah

Trade Show
Technical Sessions
Short Courses
Field Trips

Early bird registration by January 28th
saves \$75 over the full \$495 registration
for all sessions & exhibits

Our own John Head will be giving a talk
in one of the technical sessions

Online information & registration at:
[http://www.smenet.org/meetings/
AnnualMeeting2005/](http://www.smenet.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting2005/)

Otherwise call 800-915- 0618 for
more information

CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2005 March 15-19, 2005 Las Vegas, USA

CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2005 will be the world's largest international gathering place in 2005 for the construction and construction materials industries, showcasing the latest equipment, services and technologies.

Co-located with

IFPE 2005
International Exposition for Power
Transmission
AND
NSSGA Annual Convention
(See below)

Check out the information at
<http://www.conexpoconagg.com/>

Registration cost for the exhibits is \$40
cost of technical sessions is \$75 each

**NSSGA
ANNUAL
CONVENTION**

**March 15-18
Las Vegas**

**Same Dates as
CONEXPO – CON /AGG**

**NSSGA registration includes
CONEXPO – CON /AGG
Registration**

<http://www.nssga.org>

**If your company is a member of NSSGA,
the annual meeting plus the
CONEXPO – CON/AGG fee is \$455.
If your company is not an NSSGA
member, the fee is \$600 for both.**

**Illinois Association of
Aggregate Producers**

**ANNUAL
CONVENTION
Thursday
May 15, 2005
Springfield, IL**

Cost is \$125 + hotel

For information call
the association at
217-241-1639 or go to the web
site and e-mail the IAAP

The format and time schedule will
be similar to last year's meeting.

Web Site:
<http://www.iaap-aggregates.org/default.asp>

**26th Annual Fundamentals of
Grouting Course**

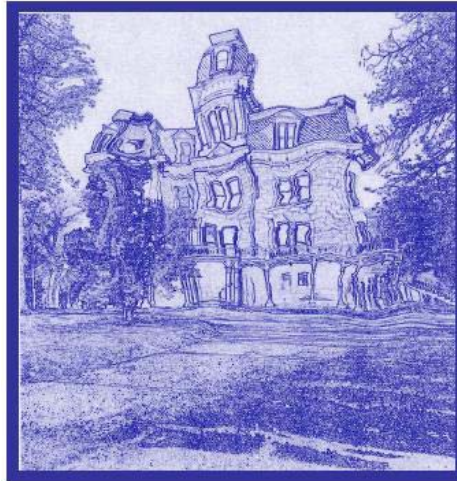
**Colorado School of Mines
Golden, CO
May 2-6, 2005**

Contact: Dr. Scott Kieffer

http://www.mines.edu/academic/mining/faculty/Kieffer/Skieffer_Homepage.htm

**From The PIE & GEM
Committees**

The Mansion Rocks



**Celebrate the Geologically
Related History of the
Hegeler Carus Mansion**

**Rocks & Minerals for Today's
Society**

**Noon-4 PM
Sunday, March 20th 2005.
1307 7th Street
LaSalle, IL**

**Sponsored by the Illinois Aggregate
Producers Association**

IDNR's rolling Rock Box will be there!

Admission is \$8. For more information call
815-224-6543 or go on line at:
www.hegelercarus.org

Submitted by Linda Hiltabrand of the DNR

**SILVER ANNIVERSARY
MEMBERS....**

The Chicago SME Section would like to recognize several individuals who have been members of the SME for 25 years. **Dr. Subhash B. Bhagwat** of the Illinois State Geol Survey, **Mr. Dean A. Ennes** of Ennes International, **Dr. Douglas F. Hambley** of Practical Environmental Consultants, **Mr. Dennis N. Kostic** of Weir International Mining Consultants, and **Dr. Gennaro G. Marino**, of Marino Engineering Associates. The SME will be mailing your certificates by next week.

Congratulations guys! And thanks for your support over the years. - Gordie Stevens

**New to the Chicago SME Web Site
Corporate Sponsor Links**

The Chicago SME section has added a sponsor page of links on our web site. The links will be added for a small annual fee, with the money going solely to support our GEM (Government, Education & Mining) Committee outreach efforts. This money goes to sponsor a variety of teacher education, Mineral Information Institute education materials, student scholarships and more.

If your company wants a link on the web site, the annual cost is \$25 for the name and link, or 50\$ if you add a logo. This is a small way to add to your company exposure and support educational efforts by the industry at the same time. For information, call Gordie Stevens at 630-795-7246 or e-mail him at gstevens@patrickengineering.com

**ILLINOIS STATE GEOLOGICAL
SURVEY TO OBSERVE
CENTENNIAL**

Beginning in May 2005, the Illinois State Geological Survey will observe its Centennial with special publications and events including the following:

- Publication of a new book, "The Geology of Illinois" a comprehensive volume of the bedrock and surficial geology.
- A new map – the updated "Bedrock Geology of Illinois" will be published as a two-sided Wall-size map at a scale of 1/500,000.
- Chicagoland glacial geology poster will supplement the Chicago shoreline poster. This 2-sided poster will be released this spring.
- Two new volumes in the "Geology of the State Parks" series – one on Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Parks and the other on Illinois Beach State Park.
- Field Trips in several state parks and **special industrial field trips** of limited size to selected mines and industrial facilities, the schedules to be determined. Check the web link at the end of this article under "Field Trips".
- Midwest Friends of the Pleistocene Meeting May 13-15 @ Streator and Illinois River
- Meeting of the Midwest Groundwater Association in October, 2005 in Champaign.

- A lecture series of preeminent earth scientists and engineers, including experts on paleoclimates and ocean floor geology.

Details can be found at:

<http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu/centennial/centennial.htm>

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From The TALKING HEAD **(John Head, Continental Placer)**

John Head is keeping busy at his new job by presenting talks at various venues over the next three months. He will be giving three talks at various industry forums within three months on three different topics.



The first one, which is titled "How to Deal with an MSHA Inspection" is at the Pennsylvania Aggregates and Concrete Association (PACA) operations meeting in Harrisburg on January 13. This gives some practical advice for preparing for the MSHA visit, dealing with the inspector when he arrives and dealing with the results of the inspection. He also includes some comments on what NOT to do.

His second talk, at the SME Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City on March 2, will be on the "The Future of Aggregates". This paper will explore the growing trend of underground stone mining, and provide some suggestions for when going down might be the answer for your quarry. The third talk concerns a topic that will affect us all. John's talk is titled "A Review of Diesel Particulate Regulations and the Impact on the Mining Industry" and will be given at the Industrial Minerals Association being held in conjunction with ConAGG/ConEXPO in Las Vegas on March 14. John Head has been a participant for the mining industry on committees working with the development of these regulations for several years.

CONCERNING OLD ASTM C-33 STANDARDS AND FINES LOSSES.....

It might be worth it for senior management and the engineering departments of the aggregate and cement suppliers to take a look at a discussion going on now at one of the Forums on AggregateResearch.com at http://www.aggregateresearch.com/forum/qlogin.asp?area_id=113&msg_id=3891.

You need to complete a free registration with ARI (or log in if already registered), then paste this link in the Address line. The registration gives you the option to get news on topics you select if you want it. This editor subscribes and finds the information valuable. I don't get spam along with it – just 2 lines and a link to each article.

This discussion concerns a change in the ASTM standards concerning fine aggregate and C-33 done in the 1930s. If some of the opinions expressed are correct, and if research could prove that a change in gradation standards was warranted, it could significantly reduce the fines losses for some producers. These changes for concrete fine aggregate in the 30's included a new standard of 100% passing 8 mesh versus the old standard of allowing a percentage of 4 to 8 mesh in fine aggregates. Note also Lukkarila's comments relating to the 100-270 mesh size fraction. I would appreciate hearing opinions from our producers on this.

The Editor

Chinese call sets coal prices alight

Nov 2004

Export prices for coking and thermal coal next year will soar to bring in billions of dollars of extra income as strong Chinese demand has lit a fire under world markets, say industry experts. The biggest price rises will be for coking coal, used for steelmaking, which are forecast to more than double to higher than US\$130 (\$183) a tonne - possibly much more - as negotiations begin between Australia, the world's top exporter, and Japan, the No. 1 importer.

Prices for thermal coal, used to generate energy, are forecast to rise by about 20 per cent, after spot rates peaked this year. Opening the AustralianCoal.04 conference

yesterday, conference chairman Gerard McCloskey said Xstrata had just settled a first coking coal contract for next year with a South American steelmaker at \$137 a tonne, up 136 per cent from contract prices of around \$58 between Australian exporters and the Japanese steel mills for the year ending in March.

It was forecast that thermal coal prices in Australia-Japan contracts would rise to between \$52 and \$55 a tonne for the year from April 1 from around \$45 a tonne this year. Peter O'Connor, director diversified resources at broker Credit Suisse First Boston Australia Equities, forecast thermal coal contract prices of US\$52.50 a tonne for 2005/06, a 17% increase.

But the big boom is in coking coal, after massive steel industry expansion in China turned its self-sufficiency in coal into a permanent import need. O'Connor said steelmakers were entering a raw materials price squeeze, while producers rode high.

Based on Australian coking coal exports of 120 million tonnes a year, a contract price rise of only \$50 a tonne for 2005/06 would increase revenue for (Australian) miners by \$6 billion and their profits by \$4 billion, he said.

One forecast the world's hard coking coal trade would grow to 148 million tonnes by 2009 from 116 million tonnes last year, with most of the extra to come from Australia. China's coking coal imports were seen rising steadily to 20 million tonnes by 2010 from 3 million tonnes last year.

This article reprint from:

<http://www.aggregateresearch.com/article.asp?id=5326>

- the editor

Editors's Note: From the Intertech sponsored Met Coke World Summit Nov. 2004: Chinese coke production saw a 75% production increase from '01 to '03. Over 180 new ovens are being built increasing yearly capacity by 60 million tonnes/year. Overall national output is expected to be nearly 60% of the world total in '05. And additional plants are planned; from '06-'10 some 52 million tonnes will likely be built. If world capacity rises by 83 million tonnes by 2008, China will be the site of 78% of it. – from a talk by Karl Csenich, U.S. Steel's General Manager - Raw Materials

2003-2004 Chicago Section SME Officers

Chairman	Gordie Stevens Patrick Engineering, Inc. Lisle, IL 630-795-7429 Fax 630-434-8400 gstevens@patrickengineering.com	GEM Coordinator	Anne Leslie Raimonde Drilling, Inc. Chicago, IL 708-583-9290 Fax 708-583-9491 rdcdrill@rdc-drill.com
Vice-Chairman	John Head Continental Placer, Inc. Wheaton, IL 630-407-0800 x 103 Fax 630-407-0799 jhead@continentalplacer.com	Newsletter Editor	Rick Ackermann Patrick Engineering, Inc. Lisle, IL 630-795-7246 Fax 630-434-8400 rackermann@patrickengineering.com
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SME Chicago Section Membership Dues Form

Note: To become a member of SME at the national level, please join at www.smenet.org or get an application from Gordie Stevens.

NAME: _____

AFFILIATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____ @ _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP + 4: _____

DAYTIME TEL. NUMBER: _____

SPONSOR'S NAME: _____

STUDENT _____ **RETIRED** _____

Make Check for \$20.00 (\$10.00 for Student or Retired) out to "Chicago Section – SME" and mail to: Steve Tivy, Treasurer, Chicago Section of SME, Boncosky Oil Inc., 739 North State Street, Elgin, IL 60123

**NEXT MEETING
Tuesday, January 18, 2005**

**“EQUIPMENT AUTOMATION FOR
IMPROVED PRODUCTION:**

Automation of a Clamshell Dredge for Underwater Sand & Gravel Mining”

**Chris Nelson, Vice President, and
Allan Martin, Electrical Engineer,
Rohr Corporation.**

At the

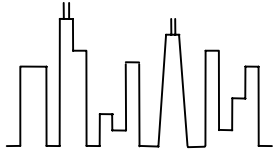
**Ramada Inn at Burr Ridge:
300 South Frontage Road, Burr Ridge, IL.**

THANKS to Patrick Engineering, Inc. for Newsletter Editing, Paper, Copying, Stapling, and Grunt Work

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