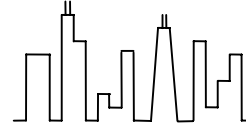


CHICAGO SECTION NEWSLETTER

February 2003 – Website Edition



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

MEETING: Tuesday, March 4, 2003

A Joint Meeting with the North Central Chapter of AEG

- Topic:** “The Quecreek Mine Rescue – A Personal Perspective”
- Guest Speaker:** **Dr. Kelvin Wu, Chief, Mine Waste and Geotechnical Engineering Division, MSHA Technical Support, Pittsburgh**
- Time:** 5:30 PM Social Hour
6:30 PM Dinner
7:30 PM Speaker
- Place:** **Golden Duck Restaurant & Bar Bohemian-American Home Cooking**
500 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL. Telephone 630-968-8887
- Directions:**
From I-294: Exit at I-88 Westbound, Pay 40 cent Toll, Exit at Route 83 South, Route 83 South to Ogden Avenue, Ogden Avenue West to Just Past Fairview Avenue on Right (North Side)
From I-290 Westbound: Exit at Route 83 South, Route 83 South to Ogden Avenue, Ogden Avenue West Just Past Fairview Avenue on Right (North Side)
From I-88 Eastbound: Exit at Highland Avenue, Left to Southbound on Highland Avenue to Ogden Avenue, Left to East on Ogden Avenue, East to Restaurant on Left (North Side) Just Past Dunkin Donuts
From I-355: Exit to I-88 Eastbound, Exit at Highland Avenue, Left to Southbound on Highland Avenue to Ogden Avenue, Left to East on Ogden Avenue, East Restaurant on Left (North Side) Just Past Dunkin Donuts
- Menu:** Chicken paprika, fried fish and roast beef. Soup, mashed potatoes, dumplings, sauerkraut, cabbage, vegetable, coffee and homemade dessert selection. Family style
- Cost:** \$25 for dinner/meeting for Members, \$30 for Non-Members. Any Science teachers or professors are considered a guest of the Section and will get dinner free. Student’s dinners will only be \$5.
- Call:** Sarah Schlichtholz of Continental Placer, Inc. at 630-469-6340x109
or E-mail at sschlic@continentalplacer.com anytime up to morning of meeting.

From the Chairman:

It seems many of us have been enduring a cold spell for quite a while now. The circumstances driving these conditions are many. For most it started with an economy beginning a downswing just prior to President Bush taking office, and then WHAM, the events of 9/11 and the anthrax incidents, a war in Afghanistan, and now another war potentially looming on the horizon. The last couple of years have been an emotional roller-coaster ride. To make matters worse, the economy has taken the long steady decline well past cooling down to downright frigid in some quarters. I know things could be much worse, but for many of us these circumstances have led to slowdowns in workloads, layoffs, incessant worries, and other grim events. As winter is losing its hold, now is a good time to let go of our own set of darker, cooler, days. Shake off the frost. No matter what lies ahead for us, there will always be bright, warm spots. Some compelled by circumstances, others not. New time spent with family and loved ones, vocational realignments, rethinking old patterns, new opportunities. Most always walk away from cold periods better prepared for what may lie ahead. These also are great times to get together as a professional society, share our problems and experiences, rub shoulders with others, learn new things, lift each other up. I look forward to our Section meetings, being with you, and I think each time coming away with a better attitude. I hope you feel the same way. The next one is soon. Maybe you will be there too.

.-Gordie

From the Program Chairman This Meeting

The Quecreek Mine rescue operation presentation will discuss the activities and events that occurred during July 24 through 28, 2002. A step-by-step discussion of the field conditions and actions that have been taken will be a part. How and why certain decisions were made and their final outcome will be discussed.



Kelvin Wu was the senior-most MSHA Technical Support guy there, and was on site 24-hours-a-day, around the clock, until the rescue, and took part in or made many crucial decisions to pull off this miraculous feat.



The Speaker

Dr. Kelvin Wu is the Chief of the Mine Waste and Geotechnical Engineering Division, **Mine Safety and Health Administration**, Pittsburgh Safety and Health Technology Center. He is the Department of labor's Dam Safety Officer on the Interagency Committee on Dam Safety (ICODS). Dr. Wu has responsibility for MSHA's program of reviewing plans for the impoundments built by the mining industry. Other responsibilities include providing technical assistance to the Federal mine inspectors in areas such as highwall stability, haulage safety, inundation, underground bulkhead design, subsidence, surface haulage, and the structural safety of mine facilities.

Dr. Wu was the past Chairman for the Pittsburgh Chapter of SME. He is on the Board of Directors for the Pittsburgh Chapter of SME and the Pittsburgh Coal

Mining Institute of America. He received his BS in Mining Engineering from the National Cheng-Kung University, Taiwan, R.O.C. in 1962; MS and PhD in Mining Engineering from the University of Wisconsin Madison in 1965 and 1970. Dr. Wu has served on numerous committees for SME and is a member of the Coal Division Executive Committee. He taught as adjunct professor in the Mining Engineering Department at the University of Pittsburgh and the West Virginia University. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania.

Last Meeting

Bill Langer of the USGS in Denver gave an excellent presentation on the problems of quarry development and operations in karst environments, which of course we all have to face in this area. About 20 members braved the developing snow storm to make it. We even had a reporter, **Jennifer Grover Prokopy**, from **Rock Products** there! Bill's talk is based on a USGS open-file report that is available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2001/ofr-01-0484/> but the pictures of his dog won't be there.

Next Meeting

Farouk Oksuz of **Black & Veatch** will be our speaker on **March 25** on the grouting and sealing of the MWRDGC McCook Reservoir, **John Weibmar** of **Caterpillar** on new technologies in mobile equipment on **April 22**, and **Satya Harpalani** of **SIU** on **May 27** on new development in coal mining downstate. Please note that dates often change due to last-minute changes in speaker's schedules.

Raj Rajaram

GEM News

Earlier this month I had the pleasure to demonstrate the cupcake mining activity for 90 4th graders. After much recuperation I reflected on how well-received information about our industry can be! Just think if each member went to the local school how many minds we could touch. Needless to say, if anyone has 35 samples of any rock or mineral, please let me know. The workshop scheduled for this summer is fast approaching and it never hurts to be prepared. Do not hesitate to bring corporate trinkets in quantities of 35 to our next meeting for the Science Teacher's Workshop 2003. Remember: "If

it can't be grown, it has to be mined!"
Annie Leslie

Mining Engineer Looking for Employment

McMillan Nzombola, 5555 SW 9th Street, Apt 18, Des Moines, Iowa, 50315, (515) 256-2007. Looking for entry level position in mining industry. South Dakota School of Mines, BS Mining Engineering, May, 2002. Currently working for **Terracon** in Des Moines, IA. Also worked with **South Dakota Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources**.

Hello from Nevin

Hello, and our best for the new year. When you have time, please take a look at **Pebble Creek Resources'** eye-catching new web site at the same address: www.pebcreek.com. The site was designed and constructed by Karen Ng; photos of people and places in India are by photographer Paul Liebhardt. Now that gold and base metals prices are recovering we are looking forward to an IPO and a very good year. Best wishes to all for 2003,
Andrew Nevin
nevin@pebcreek.com

Boncosky Oil Expands Fuel Operations in Southern 'Burbs

Mike Havenga, General Manager of **Boncosky Oil Company's** Fuel division is pleased to announce that Boncosky's efforts to expand fueling operations in the extreme southern portion of the Chicago Metropolitan area gained momentum with the addition of Mr. Gary Hosack to the sales staff. Gary comes to Boncosky after a stint as the plant manager at KCBX Terminals in Chicago. Gary lives in Whiting, IN, with his wife, Kay. He spent 28 years with Cargill in a variety of operations roles, and the past 2 1/2 years at KCBX. Boncosky, headquartered in Elgin, is a fuel and lubricant supplier in the metropolitan area. Boncosky features Exxon and Mobil brand lubricants as well as our own Medallion brand fuel and lubricants. Fuel bulk plants are concentrated in the extreme northwest suburbs. A fuel "tank-wagon" is now stationed in Lemont to serve the southern tier. Boncosky provides diesel (on and off-road), gasoline, and heating oil. Gary can be reached at 847-878-4235. If you have

fuel requirements, chances are he has greens fees!

Heard It Before, But It's Still Good

An engineer dies and reports to hell. Pretty soon, the engineer becomes dissatisfied with the level of comfort in hell, and starts designing and building improvements. After a while, they've got air conditioning and flush toilets and escalators, and the engineer is a pretty popular guy. One day God calls Satan up on the telephone and says with a sneer: "So, how's it going down there in hell?" Satan replies: "Hey things are going great. We've got air conditioning and flush toilets and escalators, and there's no telling what this engineer is going to come up with next." God replies: "What? You've got an engineer? That's a mistake - he should never have gotten down there; send him up here." Satan says: "No way. I like having an engineer on the staff, and I'm keeping him." God says: "Send him back up here or I'll sue." Satan laughs uproariously and answers: "Yeah, right. And just where are you going to get a lawyer?"

Chicago SME Members Author Papers for SME Annual Meeting this Month

Three members of the Chicago Section will be presenting papers at the **SME Annual Meeting** in Cincinnati February 24. **Art Pincomb** of **Associated Geologists, Inc.**, will talk on "Aggregate Reserve Planning and Value," while **Frank Kendorski** of **Agapito Associates, Inc.**, is a co-author with **Don Haas** of **Haas Global Mining Consulting** of "Financial Valuation of Construction Materials Properties, Plants, and Reserves," and **Ann Leslie** of **Raimonde Drilling Corporation** put together "Today's Drilling Methods for Tomorrow's Reserves." All three papers are back-to-back in the Monday Morning Session on "Construction Materials Symposium: Site Specific Evaluation and Reserve Estimation." See you there!

Visit Chicago-Area Exhibitors at the SME Meeting

Not to be outdone by our Speakers, several Chicago-Area companies will be exhibiting at the **SME Annual Meeting** in Cincinnati February 24 through February 26:

Agapito Associates, Inc. Booth 332
Caterpillar, Inc. Booth 702
E&MJ/Coal Age Booth 1030

Flender Corp. Booth 1713

FMC Energy Systems Booth 413

Please visit these booths and let them know that dragging all of the exhibit booth stuff to Cincinnati was worthwhile.

General Motors OnStar System and Electric Blasting

The **ISEE Blasting Listserve** has had questions regarding the radio emissions broadcast by the **GM OnStar** navigation and diagnostic system in late-model GM cars, SUV's, and trucks. A vehicle equipped with OnStar broadcasts more radio energy than a CB radio, so, in blasting zones with **Blasting Area, Turn Off Radios** signs or in mines and quarries with shots being wired up, the system should be disabled or avoid the blasting areas. As you know, radio energy can detonate electric blasting caps in certain instances. We do not know if this is a new urban legend or has validity, but it pays to be safe. This also goes for **Cell Phones**. If there is nothing to this, we will let you know.

NY State Cites Company in Blasting Accident

The Ithaca Journal, Tuesday, January 28, 2003

SYRACUSE -- A company conducting a blasting operation that injured two workers at a quarry was improperly using explosives that had deteriorated and should have been destroyed, according to the state Department of Labor. A state report released Friday cited Dyno Nobel, a subcontractor of the quarry owner, for two violations, both of which the company quickly corrected, state spokesman Joe Morrissey said. Dyno Nobel was cited for not having standard procedures for disposing of "unwanted" explosives, and for not keeping a proper inventory of magazines containing explosives.

A spokeswoman for Dyno Nobel's North American operations, based in Utah, did not immediately return a call for comment on Monday. The injured workers, both employees of Dyno Nobel Northeastern Region, a Middlefield, Conn. subsidiary of the parent company, were preparing a controlled blast on Nov. 14 to break nearly 40,000 tons of limestone from a wall at the Hansen Aggregates East quarry in Jamesville, just south of Syracuse.

Kevin Deline was lowering explosives into blast shafts that were previously drilled into the rock wall when one exploded

prematurely, hurtling rock fragments in all directions. Deline, 44, of Cortland was struck in the head by limestone fragments and admitted in critical condition to University Hospital in Syracuse. Hospital officials said he was released Dec. 26. Co-worker Frank Lapp, 34, of Parish suffered minor injuries and was treated and released that day.

World's Largest Quarry

Limestone is a mineral raw material essential in making steel, chemicals, and cement. **Henry H. Hindshaw**, a geologist, established in 1908-09 the commercial value of this area's limestone for industry. The high purity of this deposit and the availability of water transportation led to the development here of a port and quarry. Both are named Calcite, after the principal ingredient of the stone. The **Michigan Limestone and Chemical Company**, founded in 1910, began operation in 1912. Purchased by **Carl D. Bradley** and the **United States Steel Corporation** in 1920, the company came under the ownership of U.S. Steel upon Bradley's death in 1928. In 1951 the company became a division of the corporation. Self-unloaders of the division's Bradley Transportation Line carry limestone from this, the world's largest limestone quarry, to industrial ports around the Great Lakes.

Used with Permission of **James Brennan**.

Editor's Note: I did some work on this quarry a few years ago, and they have shipped as much as 16,000,000 tons in a year. The quarry is now part of Michigan Limestone Operations of Oglebay Norton Company.

Sigh....

