



THE FORGE

Newsletter of the Birmingham Branch of ASCE

President:
Jonathan Byrd, P.E.

Vice President
Vacant

Secretary/Treasurer
Andy Faulk, P.E.

August, 2007
Volume 36 Issue 8

Birmingham Branch- ASCE, P.O. Box 190366, Birmingham, AL 35219

<http://branches.asce.org/birmingham/> Newsletter Publisher: afaulk@wiserco.com 205.942.2822



No Branch Meeting in June, July or August

We are all sure you'd rather be sitting around a table discussing ASCE with us instead of lounging by the pool with your families and friends, but you are just going to have to wait until after the summer break. This doesn't mean we don't have things planned. Stay Involved & stay in touch!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Meeting Information
- 1 Conference Follow up
- 1 I 35 W
- 2 A Message from the President
- 2 Officer Elections
- 3 Speakers and Presentations
- 3 Where Would You Like to Meet
- 4 National Preparedness
- 4 Sharon D. Banks Award
- 4 The Whole Nine Yards
- 5 Sponsors & Contacts

Section Conference Follow Up

By Andrew Murr

The Alabama Section held its Summer Meeting in Orange Beach July 25-27. The meeting was a great success with nearly 140 attendees, 19 sponsors and 10 exhibitors. The meeting offered informative technical presentations, and a great opportunity for networking and visiting with friends. The Birmingham Branch organized this year's meeting and should be commended for a great job and I would personally like to thank everyone who volunteered.

The I-35W Tragedy

By Hawk Andrews

The I-35W Mississippi River Bridge, which opened in 1967, was an eight-lane, 1,900-foot steel truss bridge that carried Interstate 35W across the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States. The bridge, maintained by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, was Minnesota's third-busiest, carrying 140,000 vehicles daily.

At 6:05 pm during the weekday evening rush hour on August 1, 2007, the main spans of the bridge collapsed, falling into the river and onto its banks. As of August 12, 2007 nine deaths had been attributed to the collapse while four individuals remained missing and were believed to be dead. The tragedy garnered national attention including visits from



“Next month we will again be picking up our meetings. Our year begins anew.”

A Message from the President

By Jonathan Byrd

Heat, love it or hate it, it will always be there. As we enter the dog days of summer most of us try to forget about it. We leave our air conditioned houses and get into our air conditioned vehicles that we drive to our air conditioned offices. On the way home we pick up groceries at an air conditioned store, and we wonder why some engineer has not yet figured out how to air condition the gas pumps before we go in to pay for our liquid gold. Heat, stress and strain are all properties that work to make new materials, strengthen materials and lots of other good things. Likewise heat can cause problems and make things go bad.

Recently I was reading an article where the author proposed that more things change on an annual basis around August to September than in January. The end of the summer (yes I know it isn't until almost the end of September) signals more of a change to a “new year” than the days we take off and call New Year's Day. Could it be the heat again bringing on a change?

Next month we will again be picking up our meetings. Our year begins anew. We will be looking for another champion to lead our Coloring Book Competition, another scholarship committee, another Branch Officer. It is time for all of us to re-commit ourselves to our organization. This commitment is not without its benefits, though for the most benefit one must commit oneself more. As we finish off the summer schedule, let's take stock of what we hold dear and what we do. Allow the heat of the summer to bring about a better engineer this fall, and let's see where we can all take our organization as we go boldly into the unknown we call tomorrow.



wileyink@earthlink.net

wileyink@earthlink.net

Officer Elections

Officer elections are coming up soon. Be ready to make your voice heard. You all know the rest...

From I-35W Tragedy on Page 1.

President Bush, Minnesota's U.S. Senators, Coleman and Klobuchar, and swarms of media.

Everyone in America mourns the loss of life and those in the engineering community especially understand what can happen when a structure fails. Look for further discussion of this event in following editions of the newsletter.



Speakers and Presentations

Branch meetings are the first Thursday of each month, September through May. Each month's meeting includes a presentation by a guest speaker. If you have an idea for a speaker or topic, please contact Andy Faulk.

Here is the line up so far:

September	Michael Lipparelli	Solar Bee	November	Jody Saiia	BARD
October	Ron Bane	TBA			



From Cartoonstock.com

Where Would You Like to Meet

By Andy Faulk

For a while now we have met at the Golden Coral in Vestavia, but increasingly more and more members are speaking up that they would prefer a different location; one that appears a bit more professional. The officers have spoken with a lot of you individually and we have put the bug in your collective ear at a few of the meetings. After the Summer Conference we will start pursuing this with vigor. Please let us know your thoughts.

September is National Preparedness Month



ASCE has joined with the Department of Homeland Security for National Preparedness Month. It is a nationwide effort to encourage all Americans to take simple measures to prepare for emergencies in their homes, schools and businesses. The goal is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action.

You can find out more information on the following website:

<http://ciasce.asce.org/NationalPreparednessMonth.html>

Sharon D. Banks Award

The Transportation Research Board is seeking nominations for the Sharon D. Banks Award for Innovative Leadership in Transportation. The TRB award will be made during the Chairman's Luncheon on January 16, 2008, during the TRB 87th Annual Meeting.

For more information go to TRB's website, www.trb.org.

Nominations are due by 8/31.



The Whole Nine Yards

Upcoming Events

- August 19-22, 2007, International Air Transport Conference in Irving, Texas
- September 3-5, 2007, International Symposium on Environmental Hydrology in Cairo, Egypt
- September 6 2007, Birmingham Branch of ASCE meeting.

The Rest of the ...

- Nominations for Historic Civil Engineering Landmark status are due by Sept. 14. For information on the program, visit http://content.asce.org/history/ce_landmarks.html.
- The Alabama Environmental Management Commission denied a petition by environmental groups that urged the state to adopt stricter standards to protect its waterways from cancer-causing pollutants. After its unanimous vote, the commission will allow a committee to review Alabama's water quality standards and report its findings in six months. "The petition has been denied, it has not been killed," said Dr. Laurel Gardner, a member of the commission. "It's still very much alive." The groups that filed the petition asked that Alabama join 28 other states that require carcinogen levels in streams to be low enough that no more than one in one million people could get cancer from them. Alabama uses a less protective risk factor that allows one in 100,000 people to get cancer. EPA allows states to use either standard, but most use the more protective one. Alabama

See The Rest of the... continued on page 5

The Rest of the... continued from page 4

Power Co., the Business Council of Alabama, the Alabama Coal Association and the Alabama Pulp and Paper Council all objected to stricter pollution rules. The Business Council objected to "a significant financial impact on the Alabama business community" and stated that the petitioners failed to justify the additional expense on industry. Clean water advocates said they were disappointed the commission discussed the economics of regulation so much and the cost of cancer so little. *U.S. Water News Online 7/5.*

- Investigators from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) criminal division are looking into a 2005 Missouri dam failure, the Associated Press is reporting. The Taum Sauk reservoir in southeast Missouri failed in December 2005 as a result of improperly installed and maintained water-level monitors. <http://www.ago.mo.gov/newsreleases/2007/052207c.htm>.

Newsletter Sponsors – Thank You



www.saiia.com

If you would like to advertise in next month's issue, please contact Andy Faulk @205.942.2822

Contact Information

President

Jonathan Byrd, P.E.
City of Anniston
205.405.7751

jbyrd@ci.anniston.al.us

Vice President

Vacant

Secretary/Treasurer

Andy Faulk, P.E.
Wiser Company
205.942.2822

afaulk@wiserco.com

Do you have something to say? Let's hear it, and maybe your thoughts will be in the next newsletter.

PLEASE RETURN THIS STUB WITH PAYMENT:

DUES: ASCE Birmingham Branch (2007) Total Due: \$10.00(Tax Id. No.63-0371391)

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: ASCE-Birmingham Branch

P.O. Box 190366, Birmingham, AL 35219

Name: _____ email: _____

Company: _____ Phone: _____