
January 9th Meeting

Topic: Making Malfunction Junction Function

Bob Portera, of Gresham Smith and Partners will be speaking at the January 9th meeting on the redesign of the I-59 and I-65 interchange in Birmingham. Mr. Portera has more than 25 years experience in transportation design and construction and has worked in both State and Federal government roles as well as held increasingly responsible positions in the private sector. Upon graduation from Auburn University, Mr. Portera served in various capacities over a 10 years with the Federal Highway Administration. Mr. Portera worked in the Alabama, Oklahoma, Utah, and Illinois Division Offices as well as performed a temporary duty assignment in Saudi Arabia. Mr. Portera joined the private sector when he accepted the position of Senior Engineer in the Houston, Texas office of Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. After spending 3 years with Baker Engineers, he was appointed as the Location Engineer for the Alabama Department of Transportation, supervising a group of over 60 engineers and technicians including 8 location survey crews. Mr. Portera served in that capacity for over 7 years. Currently, Bob is the Partner in Charge of Transportation in the Birmingham Division of Gresham, Smith and Partners and he also serves as the Environmental Coordinator for all ongoing transportation projects in the Birmingham Office.

Cost of the luncheon is \$10.00 (\$5.00 for students). If you do not hear from the telephone committee by noon on Friday, January 5th, please call in your reservation to Art Hargrove at 544-7964 or email him at arthur.hargrove@msfc.nasa.gov.

What the Section Does for Us

At the April 14th District 14 Council meeting, Lloyd Pitts reported the Alabama Section of ASCE had requested a public hearing with the Alabama Department of Public Health – Environmental Services concerning proposed changes to Chapter 420-3-1.13(1), “Minimum Soil Test Requirements” that would limit the use of soil morphology as an evaluation method to soil classifiers and public health environmental site evaluators. These changes would not have allowed civil engineers, who are qualified and practice in “geotechnical engineering” or “soil engineering”, to perform soil morphology evaluations. Partly due to the voiced concerns of the Alabama Section, the wording of APPENDIX R, “The Unified Method and the Munsell for Soil Evaluation” was changed to include qualified civil engineers to perform site analysis by the Unified Soil Classification Method and Munsell Evaluation in lieu of a percolation test. The Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors issued a letter to the Public Health Department concurring with the proposed changes in APPENDIX R.

*From the President's Report by David Parker
Alabama Section ASCE Civil News, Fall 2000*

Winter Section Meeting

The Winter Section Meeting will be Tuesday March 6th. The Tuscaloosa branch will be hosting the meeting. It will be held at the Mercedes Benz Training Center in Tuscaloosa located on I -20/59 at Exit 89. The meeting will begin around 8:00.

Seminar Announcement

The current international and domestic laws affecting CFCs, HCFCs, and HFCs will be presented at the January 11 ASHRAE meeting by James E. Wolf, President of ASHRAE to demonstrate the significant impact on the present and future availability of air conditioning and refrigeration technologies. The meeting will be held at Wilson Hall on the UAH Campus in Room 141. Proposals for changes to international and U.S. laws and regulations impacting the selection of refrigerants for air conditioning and refrigeration equipment will be presented. Current research on development of substitute refrigerants for HCFC-22 equipment and projections on the availability of alternative technology for air-cooled and water cooled equipment for building air conditioning systems will be covered. Finally, criteria for selection of air conditioning equipment for current and future projects will be outlined, considering the future of HCFC and HFC technologies.

For more information, visit the web site www.loghomesinalabama.com/ashrae.

New Advisor for A&M

Dr. John C. Potter, P.E., F. ASCE has served for two years as chair of the Advisory Committee for Alabama A&M University Civil Engineering Department. He will step down on January 1, 2001 and will be replaced by Mike Moran, P.E., F. ASCE.

Job Opening

MTA, Inc.
688 Discovery Drive
Huntsville, AL 35806

Civil or Environmental Engineer: BS degree in engineering and ability to obtain security clearance required. Writing ability and experience in unexploded ordnance/hazardous waste clean up are essential. Alabama PE is desirable, but not required. Immediate opening. Fax or e-mail resume: (256) 922-1888, ATTN: B. Noll; bnoll@mta-inc.com.

EEO/M-F-H-V Employer

Upcoming Huntsville Branch Meeting Dates

2001: February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, August – Alabama State Sectional Meeting, September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4.

Newsletter Items of Interest

Please provide items of interest or announcements for the next newsletter two weeks before the next meeting date (i.e. January 23rd). Please e-mail any announcements or suggestions to me at the following address:

mfunderburg@fwenc.com

NEXT MEETING: January 9th

@ 11:30 A.M.

Holiday Inn - Research Park

5903 University Drive (Our Usual Location)

RESERVATIONS: Art Hargrove 544-7964

arthur.hargrove@msfc.nasa.gov

Huntsville Branch Officers

President: Fritz Mucke, P.E. (256) 532-1659

Vice President: Jeff Mullins, P.E. (256) 539-3431

Secretary: Marcella L. Funderburg (256) 830-4100

Treasurer: Robert White, P.E. (256) 533-7331

<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Hangar/5545/>

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