



May 2008

EVENT CALENDAR:

May

15th - Annual Banquet
Meeting - Upstream -
Omaha

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

"E" Week Truss Bustin'
Competition

Attendance Lists for the
April ASCE Meeting to be
used for PDH Credit.

PRESENTING

ANNUAL MEETING & BANQUET

Thursday, May 15th

Location: **The Upstream Brewing Company**
17070 Wright Plaza
(171st & West Center Road)
Omaha, NE 68130

Times: Social Hour and Hors d'oeuvres 6:00
Dinner and Program 7:00

Menu: 12 oz. Omaha Steaks New York Strip
With Cafe' de Paris Butter
Grilled Chicken Penne Pasta
With Red Pepper Cream, Mushrooms, Peppers, and Fresh
Rosemary
Salmon Rockefeller
With Crabmeat-Spinach Stuffing and Mornay Sauce

Entrees include Salad, Beer Bread & Butter, Appropriate Accompaniments, and Coffee / Tea. All meal choices are \$15 per person and includes one complimentary drink ticket. Spouses and guests are welcome. Student meals FREE. RSVP by 9 AM Monday, May 12th to John Hill 402.496.2498 or rsvp@neasce.org Subject Line: ASCE RSVP

2007-2008
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Ed Prost, P.E.
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(V) 402-330-2202
president@neasce.org

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Marie Maly, P.E.
The Schemmer Associates,
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(V) 402-493-4800
president-elect@neasce.org

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John Hill, P.E.
Lamp Rynearson & Associates
(V) 402-496-2498
vp@neasce.org

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Tom Marnik, P.E.
Lamp Rynearson & Associates
(V) 402-496-2498
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From the President

- Ed Prost, P.E.



Ed Prost, P.E. President of ASCE

Greetings to my fellow ASCE Nebraska Section members!

This is my final article as President of the Section, and I can't say that I will miss scrambling to get this article out for each of the newsletters, but I can honestly say that it has been my pleasure and honor to serve you, the Section, this past year. It has been a busy time, but I have enjoyed the opportunities to participate in the many worthwhile activities and events that our section. I have grown in my appreciation for what this organization means to the Civil Engineering community and the greater community as well.

For those who want to see some of the great things we are accomplishing, get involved with a technical committee and help plan one of the great conferences we put on, or help with the Truss Busting or Future City competitions, or contact one of our board members and see about coming to one of our board meetings. There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes, and I am very proud and appreciative of the many volunteers and organizers of these events with whom I have worked this past year. These events allow our section to provide scholarship opportunities to our college students, outreach and awareness of engineering opportunities and careers to our youth and to the general public, and terrific continuing education and networking

opportunities to our members. I know I can count on your support to continue and to build on this proud tradition here at ASCE Nebraska.

One of our goals this year has been to increase our outreach to the youth of this community to spread the word about the great opportunities for exciting careers in the Civil Engineering field. We have received grants from ASCE National to develop some outreach kits and displays to enhance our ability to reach this goal. Some of our members are working hard to accomplish this goal. We hope to have a sampling of this for our Annual Banquet on May 15. The banquet will be held this year at The Upstream Brewing Company, located near 171st & West Center Road in Omaha. Come and enjoy a great meal and great company for a bargain price. This is our opportunity to thank you, our membership for your support; honor some of our dedicated members; and let you know what is happening with your Section.

(Continued: Page 3)

(From the President continued from Page 2)

I would be remiss if I did not put in a note of thanks to Diane Jones and all who assisted her in putting together the successful Transportation Conference held on April 18 at the Scott Conference Center in Omaha. Diane also planned a great meeting and speaker for the Section meeting at Lo Sole Mio Italian Restaurant the night before. Both events were well attended and well received. We had the opportunity to honor two of the winners of the Balsa Wood Truss Busting Competition who attended the April meeting with their parents and teachers as guests. I always enjoy opportunities to expose our youth, and their parents and teachers to our organization and engineering community, and I know they also appreciate the recognition.

I hope to see most of you at the banquet on May 15, where I will pass the baton to our next President, the very capable, Marie Maly. We will also be electing a new slate of officers. Nominations include President-Elect: John Hill; Vice President: Aaron Buettner; Secretary: Diane Jones; Treasurer: Reed Schwartzkopf; Directors: Mike McIntosh and Tom Strauss. I wish Marie and all of the new officers great success in the coming year. We still have much to accomplish here at ASCE Nebraska.

I look forward to continuing my involvement with this fine Section, and hope to see and work with each of you in the coming years. Thanks again to all for your contributions to our mission at ASCE.

Ed Prost

Meeting Attendance List

The names listed below can be considered official documentation of attendances at the April meeting worth 1 PDH credit.

Ed Prost

Aaron Buettner

Sarah Tracy

Mike Piernicky

Pat Douse

Jeff Kopocis

Jeff Kortan

Cathie Neneman

Nick Neneman

Marie Maly

Daren Konda

Steve Kathol

Andrew Sorensen

Diane Jones

Loras Klostermann

Brad Chambers

Reed Schwartzicopp

Lindsay Madsen

John Hill

Steve Bottom

Fred Neneman

Liz Rusler

Jay Ling

Brian Havens

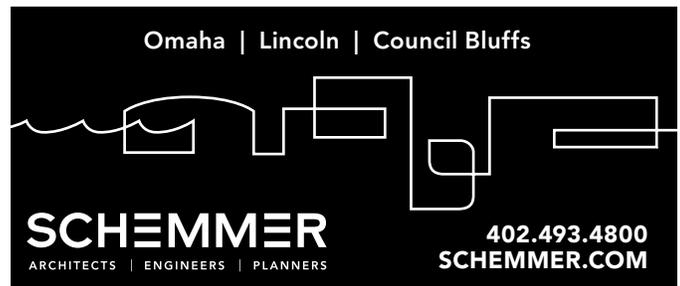
Camilo Torres



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"E" Week Truss Bustin' Competition

Contributed by John Hill, Truss Bustin' Competition Coordinator

The 20th Annual "Truss Bustin' Competition during Engineers' Week was once again a huge success for local Omaha area high school students. A few new things were tried including showing "real time" results projected on the wall with several compliments from teachers and spectators, and cheers from the students as new results were posted.

The Balsa Wood Truss Competition was held during Engineers' Week in February at the Westroads Mall. Altogether 172 trusses were entered in the competition from Northwest, Gross Catholic, Burke, North and Millard West. Two of the trusses were submitted by one teacher.

The top three places for the 20th Annual 2008 event went to:

1st Place - Brett Rischling, Gross Catholic: \$150.00 prize and certificate

2nd Place - Nick Neneman, Omaha North: \$75.00 prize and certificate

3rd Place - Dan Cordwin & Collin Murray, Gross Catholic: \$50.00 shared prize and certificates

The students are given rules to follow that allowed freedom for their own creativity yet allowed some control so the trusses all fit in the testing device. The testing device has a load cell and digital screen that locks in on the maximum load in pounds at failure of the truss. The load is divided by the weight of the truss in grams to the 1.25 power. The load-to-weight ratios were expected to be lower than past competitions because a change was made in the rules four years ago that made the student consider seven potential loading conditions rather than the same loading condition year after year. The result of this change in loading has made the trusses heavier to

account for the seven possible different load cases when one loading is randomly selected just before testing begins. Even with that adjustment, one truss this year held 582.4 lbs. The truss device can apply up to three concentrated loads six inches apart across a 24-inch span. This year the loading condition randomly selected was two concentrated loads, at the outside positions, the first time in five years that we had a symmetrical load condition. A device braces the truss laterally at the third concentrated load point, but no load is applied vertically.

The load-to-weight ratio of the winning truss was 4.12 (up from 2.61 and 2.44 the previous two years). The winning truss from Gross Catholic High School weighed 35.8 grams (1.27 ounces) and carried a total load at failure of 360.6 pounds. Performance may have been enhanced due to symmetrical loading and the use of stronger glues.

Many people are involved with putting this contest together, probably more than you can imagine, including many people that are not ASCE members, but are dedicated people willing to help out the students and their schools. "Thank you!", to all these helpers. It would be an impossible task to accomplish the Truss Bustin' Competition if it were not for these people. We are always looking for a few more people, so if you are interested in helping next year, contact John Hill. The many people involved make each single person's task very easy, but we always need new people to help.

A special thanks to all the Nebraska Section members and others that helped to contact the metro area high schools and assisted during the truss testing. The Student Chapter of ASCE that helped with the weighing and recording, and Dr. Massoum Moussavi UNO Student Chapter Faculty Advisor, for helping get the students organized. Thanks to the Civil Engineering Round Table for the prime location at the Westroads Mall and those High Schools that participated. We look forward to more participation from other metro high schools and possibly expanding to include the Lincoln High Schools in the years ahead. Our goal is to get to 250 trusses for the twenty fifth year, which may require the competition take place over two days.



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