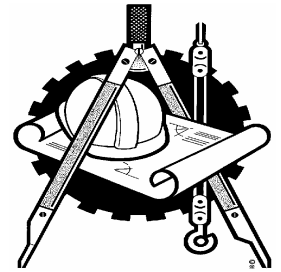


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# MODESTO ENGINEERS CLUB

email: [smills@mve.net](mailto:smills@mve.net)



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**Volume 2006 Issue 12**

**December 5, 2006**

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### FORMAL LUNCH MEETINGS

Dec. 5, 2006 / Jan. 9, 2007\*/Feb. 6, 2007\*

Mar. 6, 2006

\*: Skip 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday due to holiday conflicts

Meeting Times: 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Formal Meeting Location: **S.O.S. Club, 819**

**Sunset Ave.** (near Dryden Golf Course)

Click here for a [Map to S.O.S. Club](#)

### INFORMAL MEETINGS

Members regularly meet on Tuesdays, 11:30a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Old Mill Café, corner of 9<sup>th</sup> & F Street in Modesto for camaraderie. No formal program is presented.

### BOARD MEETINGS

(7–8:15am, Old Mill Café) [Click for Map](#)

Next Meeting: December 5, 2006

### ANNUAL EVENTS

Valentines Day Luncheon                      Date: TBA  
Beijing Restaurant – 3848 McHenry Ave.

## 2006-07 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Rapunzel Lewis, P.E.              President    338-0650  
[rapunzel@amadorlewis.com](mailto:rapunzel@amadorlewis.com)

Mike Rieben                      Vice President    526-4214  
[mriebe@mve.net](mailto:mriebe@mve.net)

Stefanie A. Mills, E.I.T.      Sec./Treas.    526-4214  
[smills@mve.net](mailto:smills@mve.net)

Steve Davis, Dave Souza, Earl Kleinfelder, Ryan Carrel, Doug Samski, Dan England, David Leaman

## FREE LOADER for December:

Dan England

**ATTENDANCE:** Last Meeting...

21 members, 9 guests, 30 total

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Holidays! Was I the only Engineer at the mall at 4 o'clock in the morning the day after turkey day? The Disney Store is just getting smaller by the dozen, and get this...as little as the store is, it still required a store clerk to usher discount shoppers in, another one to keep the check-out line, in a perfect "U-shape" (just giving barely enough room for a shopper to drag a 1ft wide x 4ft tall box containing "My Size Ariel" doll, going at 50% off plus 20% early bird discount, and yet another clerk standing across the entrance, opposite the first clerk (4 ft away), making sure the discount shoppers didn't turn naughty! But what does this got to do with engineering? Absolutely nothing! But I personally welcomed such a break from my everyday fire-fighting in running a small engineering firm.

I want to thank a group of members who signed up for the "Engineers Day at the Mall (EDM)" initiative. I thought it may not be a bad idea to let the shopping crowd at the mall die down and let us enjoy the Holidays before I start pushing for ideas and volunteer commitments for the upcoming EDM, which will coincide with the annual National Engineers Week, heavily celebrated by many engineering

associations and schools around the country, in mid February (it will be during the week of the 12<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>). But early comments and ideas are more than welcome for a great head start. Please utilize the comment section on the last page of our newsletter, and return to any of the three current officers, via email or meeting/luncheon. Some thoughts for the holidays (source: [www.wintersteel.com](http://www.wintersteel.com)):

#### Christmas Traditions Around the World

- ☑ How would you like to celebrate Christmas this year? Would you prefer to get your presents in a stocking, a shoe or a jar? Who would you like to deliver your presents? Should it be Santa Clause, Saint Nicholas or Father Christmas? In some countries The Three Kings or Fairy Queen delivers them.
- ☑ In England on the night before Christmas, Father Christmas sneaks, quietly into the house and fills all the children's stockings with gifts. In the U. S. Santa Clause makes all the deliveries on Christmas Eve.
- ☑ In France, on Christmas Eve, you put your empty shoes on the doorstep or by the fireplace. It is said that The Christ Child will come during the night and put gifts in them.
- ☑ If you lived in the Netherlands, you put hay and sugar inside a shoe on the night before Saint Nicholas Day. Saint Nicholas horse will eat the hay and sugar when they stop at your house. After the horse eats, Saint Nicholas repays you by filling your shoes with candy and tiny gifts.
- ☑ In Spain, you put straw inside your shoes. The camels of the Three Kings will eat the straw.

They will pass your house and leave gifts on Epiphany, twelve nights after Christmas.

- ☑ In Puerto Rico, they celebrate 'Three Kings Day' in the first week of January. Children stuff a box with fress grass and place it and a cup of water under their beds for 'The Three Kings and their Camels.' The next day, the glass of water and grass is gone and in its place are presents.
- ☑ In Italy you get your gifts in a large jar, called the Urn of Fate. It is said that a fairy queen flies down the chimney and fills the jar with gifts and goodies on Epiphany instead of Christmas. It was in Italy that the nativity scene became popular and spread through the Alps eventually making its way to the U. S. with German pioneers.
- ☑ In some parts of Germany at Christmas you get gifts from a girl called Christkind. She wears a crown of candles and carries a basket full of gifts to the children. A dreadful demon called Hans Trapp goes with Chriskind to deliver the gifts, Hans Trapp waves a stick to threaten the naughty children.
- ☑ At Christmas time in Sweden you might hear a thump at your front door or wake up the next morning to find gifts. It'll just be the old man and woman who go about on the night before Christmas throwing gifts inside children's front doors. No one in Sweden has ever found out who they are.
- ☑ In other parts of Europe at Christmas time you might get a gift from a Ferocious-looking man with a sooty face. It'll be knight Rupprecht passing out gifts as he travels with Saint Nicholas.

Rapunzel Amador Lewis – President

## SECRETARY'S NOTES

I hope everyone had a warm and restful Thanksgiving Holiday.

It's that time of year again; crisp, winter-cold weather, Christmas music playing around town, evergreen trees decorated with white lights and tinsel, your club dues are due. That's right, dues are due for 2007. Please fill out the renewal form (included with this newsletter transmittal) and return it with payment by mail or in person at our next monthly meeting (December 5, 2006). Please be thorough when completing the form so that I am sure to have updated contact information for all of you.

Be sure to sign in to the sign-in book at every meeting you attend, and wear your name tags. It will help me greatly when trying to stay organized and maintain accurate records of meeting attendance.

I don't have an autobiography for this month's newsletter, but I am hopeful to have several to choose from next month. Please submit an autobiography to me (see instructions in the autobiography section). I appreciate your participation, in advance.

We had 5 new members join the club in 2006, and 4 more completed applications that are still pending a vote (come back guys!). I'm looking forward to seeing more new membership in 2007.

Happy Holidays!

Stefanie Mills – Secretary/Treasurer

## FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

Have some ideas of who should be presenting or what you would like presented during our lunch meeting? If so, please submit your ideas to Mike Rieben as he is coordinating the speakers. Remember, our guest speakers have included the gamut from planners, engineers, politicians, to local community businesses and organizational leaders. We have also included on-site tours of manufacturing and new facilities in and around Modesto.

**PRESENTATIONS** that are scheduled and confirmed are as follows:

### **December 5, 2006 –**

Topic: Presentation on paver streets.

Speaker:

**Matt Machado, P.E.**, City of Ripon

### **February 6, 2007 –**

Topic: Pending.

Speaker:

**Mayor Jim Ridenour**

## STANDBY AGENDAS

The Board would like three standby speakers for the monthly meetings. The standby presentations should be from the existing membership. These presentations would be in case the guest speaker has an emergency or is sick and cannot make it. Standby speakers would receive as little as 2 hours of notification (A real Toastmaster challenge). If you would consider being a standby speaker, please contact Rapunzel L, Mike R, or Stefanie M.

## MEETING LOCATION

Our formal meetings are at the SOS Club, 819 Sunset Avenue (near Dryden Golf Course), ph. 578-5801. Tuesday's menu features a buffet style meal. Please pay the \$9.00 to the treasurer, Stefanie Mills, (half off for Students). The beverage, tax and tip are included. We have the Mellis Room reserved. The main courses will vary each week. Please park in the street or at Dryden Golf Course. The club parking lot is for SOS Club members only.

Click here for a [Map to S.O.S. Club](#)

## OUTREACH EFFORTS FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Outreach committee is designed to market the Club to potential new members. Every member can be a part of this effort by forwarding along our monthly newsletter and talking about the club. Please extend offers to join the club to your colleagues.

## **ABOUT THE ENGINEERS CLUB**

### **AN INVITATION**

The Modesto Engineers Club is pleased to invite you to join its membership.

### **PURPOSE OF THE CLUB**

The preamble of the club by-laws is quoted: "The object of this club, primarily, is to provide an organization in which Engineers of all branches of the profession may come together, and through which they may cooperate and foster fellowship and the development of the engineering profession in public affairs and community welfare".

### **WHO MAY JOIN**

The by-laws are further quoted: "The membership shall consist of those who are or have been engaged in the direction or prosecution of engineering or architecture, or teachers of students of engineering or other allied sciences".

### **CLUB ACTIVITIES**

The Club meets once a month on the first Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the SOS club. The program usually consists of a speaker on technical subjects and local affairs of interest to engineers. There are several social affairs during the year, which include the annual President's Steak Fry, A Valentines Day luncheon, the annual trip to Woolgrowers restaurant in Los Banos (3-year hiatus on this event), the annual Officers Installation Dinner and the Christmas Stag Party (how many year hiatus?). Spouses and guests are welcome at most functions, when appropriate.

### **THE COST**

A \$25.00 initiation fee and first years dues of \$20.00, \$45.00 total is payable with the submission of application. Thereafter the dues are \$20.00 per year to renew. New members will receive a certificate of membership and a nametag will be provided for our formal lunch meetings. Members pay for their own lunches, and for meals at other events.

## **SIZE OF CLUB**

The club, having been founded in 1932 enjoys a wealth of former members, and approximately **74** active members. They represent many of the public works engineers, consultants, utility companies, and suppliers of construction and engineering materials.

### **THE APPLICATION**

We would be pleased if you complete the application. Please obtain the signatures of two active members. After submittal of your application, it will be read at the meeting. At the next meeting at which the applicant is present, membership will be based on a two-thirds affirmative vote of members present. You will then be inducted. The ceremony is simple, but dignified. Applicants are welcome to attend weekly meetings while their applications are pending.

### **PROGRAM EXAMPLES**

Engineering Excellence – Project of the Year	
Technology	Travel
Health Care	Politics
Finance	Engineering

# MODESTO ENGINEERS CLUB

## Autobiography

**SUBJECT: Please submit an autobiography to Stefanie Mills.  
See below.**

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Dear Members:

We will feature one to three autobiographies each month in our newsletter in the Autobiography Section. Please submit an autobiography to:

Modesto Engineers Club  
c/o Mid-Valley Engineering  
Attn: Stefanie Mills  
1117 L Street  
Modesto, CA 95354

Autobiographies may also be submitted via email to Stefanie Mills at [smills@mve.net](mailto:smills@mve.net) or you may bring them to any of our formal monthly lunch meetings.

The autobiographies may be as unique as you would like but should address some or all of the following:

Name  
Marital Status  
Name and Age of Children  
Degrees and Colleges  
Brief Employment History  
Where you call home  
Hobbies  
A photo of yourself

The newsletter editor may edit autobiographies to keep the content brief. See last months' newsletter for a sample autobiography of Vice-President Mike Rieben. You may submit a photo of yourself or provide a digital photo via email.

**Thank you all for participating in this way to get to know each other a little better.**

