



THE OBSERVER

July 2008

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Matthew J. Low, PE, SECB
NHSPE President

It is with great pride that I assume the position of President of NHSPE. To date, my years on the Board of this organization have been filled with learning from, listening to, and working with some of the best and brightest engineers in our New Hampshire community. NHSPE is very active on many fronts and that will continue for the next fiscal year as well.

Tough Times?

It has long been said that "... necessity is the mother of all invention..." In the span of my relatively short career, I have never felt that statement to be truer. We as engineers do not often receive notoriety when compared to other professions,

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Congratulations Matt Purcell, P.E., F.NSPE!

Matt Purcell, P.E. was named to the 2008 class of Fellow Members, which honors active NSPE members who have demonstrated exemplary and devoted service to their profession, their Society, and their community. Matt is highly deserving of this distinguished honor and we are proud to have him as a part of our organization.

Matt has been involved in NHSPE since 1996, filling many roles including President, State Delegate to the NSPE House of Delegates, State Director, and multiple Committee Chairs. At the national level he has served on several committees (Continuing Education, Membership) and Task Forces (Member Retention, Interest Group). He is



Matt Purcell, P.E.,
F.NSPE

currently the Secretary for the Northeast Region and is in line to become the NSPE Northeast Regional Manager.

Matt is the Associate Director for the Office of Planning, Design & Construction at Dartmouth College. He has over 25 years of experience in the construction industry with a diversity of projects ranging from major highway and infrastructure systems in the New York City region to the construction of resorts in Patagonia and Southeast Asia. He also finds time to participate in community organizations including Friends of the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth and Ford Sayre Ski Club.

Submitted by Erin Wood, PE

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's happened, my year as President of the Society has passed. Thank you to last year's Board of Directors that made it both productive and enjoyable. It was quite an experience and I've learned some things along the way. I thought I'd share a few:

Ask for Help – Seems simple enough, but we control freaks and overachievers need to learn to ask for help when we need it. This last year presented me with situations where I simply couldn't do all that needed to be done, but once I swallowed my pride and asked for help an amazing thing happened... people helped! We can't expect those around us to read our minds, keep it simple and ask for the assistance you need.

Where the Buck Stops – The buck always has to stop with someone and having the honor of being the buck stopper means that you need to make the decision, give the direction, or otherwise make things happen. Sometimes the luxury of ample time isn't presented, so personal sacrifices need to be made and/or compromises reached in order

to get the job done. The understanding that if you don't make a certain thing happen no one will is sometimes overwhelming, but at the same time it's very liberating and empowering. People expect leaders to lead and few will fault you for doing the best you can when the situation requires it.

It's Nice to Have Friends – Of course I knew this already, but this past year heightened my awareness of it. Friends lift you up and give you the praise and encouragement needed to push forward, but true friends also give you a kick in the butt when that's required. I see both of these as equally valuable means of support. A few kind words to stroke the ego are fine, but nobody's above a little constructive criticism now and then. When you're on the receiving end of it, just accept the input humbly and take comfort in the fact that people care enough about you to give it.

*Submitted by Daniel Hudson, PE
NHSPE President 2007/2008*

Town of Antrim Thanks Ben Pratt

At Town Meeting on March 13, 2008, the Selectboard commended Ben Pratt for his years of dedicated service to the town of Antrim as he stepped down from the post of Chair of the Selectboard. Ben is a life-long resident of our town and has given of himself and contributed to so many of our civic organizations over many, many years.

One of Ben's great passions is MathCounts®, a national math enrichment & competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement in every U.S. state & territory. MathCounts is now in its 25th year, and Ben has been involved from the very beginning and has been the driving force behind the New Hampshire chapter.

To thank Ben and to honor his extraordinary record of selfless dedication to Antrim in so many capacities over the years, the Selectboard announced that from now on, February will be "MathCounts in Antrim Month". Every year, donations will be collected in Ben's name for the

New Hampshire MathCounts Team.

To kick off the program, this year contributions will be made by April 1 by some of the many individuals who have worked closely with Ben, including those on the Selectboard and at the Town Hall. We hope that many of Antrim's residents will also drop off a donation at Town Hall to support this worthy program and to show our gratitude to Ben for all his service to our Town.

Donations will directly benefit the New Hampshire Chapter of MathCounts and are tax-deductible. If donating by check, please make your check payable to NHSPE MathCounts. Your contributions may be dropped off at the Town Hall or mailed directly to the NHSPE (New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers) MathCounts Program, PO Box 1343, Concord, NH 03302-1343. Please note on your check or note with your contribution that your donation is in honor of Ben.

www.antrimnh.org/Pages/AntrimNH_WebDocs/mathcounts/


A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

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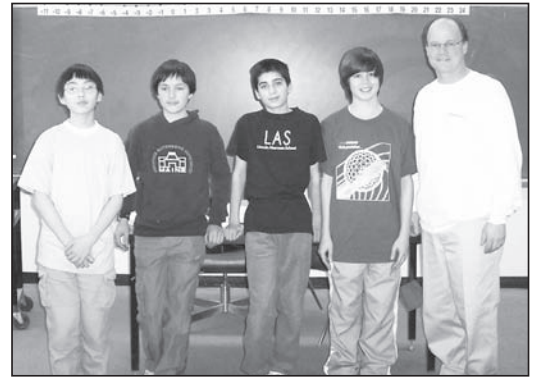
but as we enter this era of concerns over fuel shortages and high prices, a deterioration of our infrastructure, and continued impacts to our water supplies and air quality, who will the public turn to? It will be the engineers that are on the forefront of solving our most intriguing and challenging problems. Rest assured, there will be a politician or two waving the flag claiming they solved the country's problems. Behind the scenes, however, it will be the engineers who will move our country forward in the areas of sustainability, alternate fuel sources, and rebuilding of our infrastructure, allowing our country to catapult into a new era of prosperity.

We as engineers have the abilities,

knowledge, and public respect to bring fresh ideas to the table. Becoming active with decision makers in your local communities is an active step in becoming part of the solutions. At a conference that I recently attended, a panel discussion member was quoted as saying "If you don't have a seat at the table, you will probably be on the menu."

NSPE and NHSPE understand and promote the importance of our profession every day. As President this upcoming year, I hope to continue in the trend of all those who came before me of being an unwavering proponent of our profession, the importance of licensure, and encouraging the emergence of the inventor in all of us. Maybe this year is your turn to take a seat at the table. 


MATHCOUNTS



MATHCOUNTS State Team and coach John Kitzmiller

The New Hampshire MATHCOUNTS team competed at the national competition in Denver, Colorado on May 9th, 2008. The team consisted of Marcus Chan, Gregory Partridge, Ethan Payne, and Luke Pontbriand, coached by John Kitzmiller.

Our current Seacoast Region coordinator, Steve Pfirman, will not be continuing in this position. I greatly appreciate his efforts over the past two years! If anyone knows of someone who might be a prospect for coordinator of the Seacoast Region, please contact me.

If you would like additional information about MATHCOUNTS, please contact me at (603) 588-6740 or visit the MATHCOUNTS website at www.mathcounts.org. 

Submitted by Ben Pratt, PE

THE OBSERVER

The Observer is published quarterly by the New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers for its members. Its purpose is to inform members of NHSPE activities and related topics.

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NHSPE State Scholarship Program - 2008 Awards Update

Congratulations go out to the three winners of this year's scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. The selections were narrowed down from a field of about 45 applicants. Each of the applicants had high academic credentials and strong backgrounds in athletics, community service, or music. Please help us congratulate each of this year's NH State Scholarship recipients as follow:

Mr. Seth Lizotte

Seth is currently attending the University of New Hampshire in Durham majoring in Civil Engineering and expects to graduate in the Spring of 2009. Thereafter he plans to continue his education by pursuing a Master's Degree specializing in either structural or materials. Seth keeps busy with many activities including the Pathways Mentor Program, the UNH Chapter of ASCE (fundraising chair), American Concrete Institute (member), Entergy Nuclear (Student Ambassador) and Tau Beta Pi. His GPA is 3.96. Last summer he was an intern at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power facility in Vernon, Vermont where he worked on the Dry Fuel Storage Project.

Mr. Marcelo de Menezes

Marcelo is a graduate of Lebanon High School and is enrolled at Dartmouth College for Fall 2008. Marcelo kept busy with various volunteer programs such as "Youth in Action" and other Community Service Activities. While attending Lebanon High School, Marcelo was a member of the LHS Math Team, the LHS Football and Lacrosse Teams, the National Honor Society, and the North Country Athletic Club. Because Marcelo emigrated from Brazil to the United States, he is required to have a "green card" for paid employment. Having just received his "green card," Marcelo is now applying for a paying job this summer.

Ms. Kayla Hampe

Kayla will begin her junior year at the UNH School of Engineering and in her own words "has a passion for bridges and buildings." In her statement presenting her interest in engineering, Kayla stated "I get excited that I will be able to help produce and fashion these structures." She has been busy working for Students without Borders and volunteering at the Children's Museum of Portsmouth, while maintaining her 3.89 GPA. Kayla is also

interested in Architecture and may study to be an Architect after she earns her B.S. in Civil Engineering.

NHSPE John Alger Memorial Scholarship Program

For those of you who are new to the organization, the John Alger Memorial scholarship program has been in place since 2001 and is funded primarily from donations made by NHSPE members and member firms. The program is intended to provide financial assistance to students (NH residents) who are already or will be attending an ABET-EAC accredited college or university for studies in the field of engineering. The program is not possible without the strong support of our members and corporate donors. **Thank-you for your continued support.**

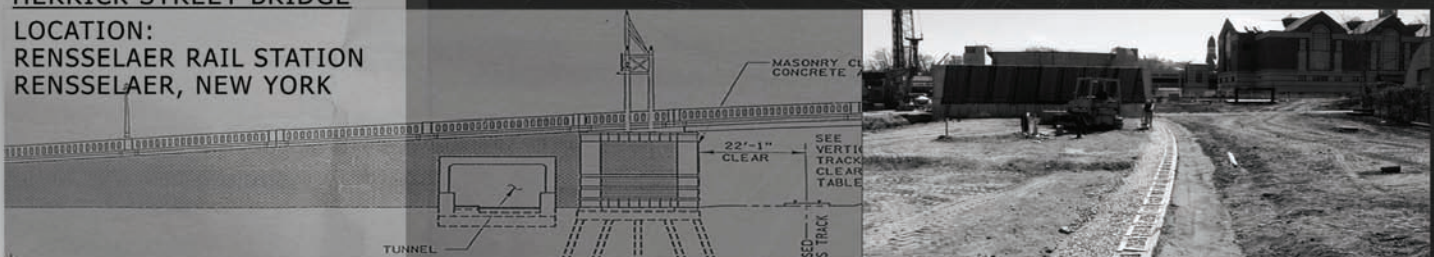
If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to this important program, checks can be made out to "NHSPE State Scholarship" and mailed anytime to: NHSPE, State Scholarship Program, PO Box 1343, Concord, NH 03302-1343. ☎

Submitted by Lawrence Dwyer, PE

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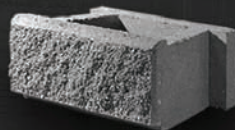
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Legislative Update - Many Engineering Bills Become Law

The House and Senate passed many of the engineering bills in the legislature in May and June, and several have also been signed by the Governor.

HB 331, related to building permits, allows a planning board to establish rules of procedure relating to the design review process and to determine when the process has ended. This bill passed the House and Senate.

HB 1202, that would subject privately-owned redistribution systems to certain provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act passed the House and Senate.

HB 1295 establishes a commission to study issues related to storm water. This bill was passed in the House and Senate, and has been signed by the Governor.


The state's pre-engineering technology curriculum in public schools would be amended by HB 1282 by including all grades 6 - 12, and not just high school. The bill also strikes digital electronics and computer-integrated manufacturing from the curriculum, while preserving the engineering topics. The bill passed the House and Senate.

Studying is not just for students. SB 383 establishes a commission to develop a plan for the

expansion of electrical transmission capacity in the north country, and to spend up to \$200,000 for engineering and economic studies. The bill was passed in the Senate and House.

SB 459 establishes an Advanced Manufacturing Education Advisory Council. The Council would include the Dean of the UNH College of Engineering and Physical Sciences. This bill was passed in the Senate and

House, and has been signed by the Governor.

SS HB 1 is a bill introduced in special session on 6/4/2008 to appropriate \$10 million for the renovation of the state community college at Pease. The bill specifically authorizes hiring professional engineers. It has already passed the House and Senate, and has been signed by the Governor. 

Submitted by Phil Decker, PE, Esq.


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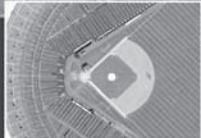




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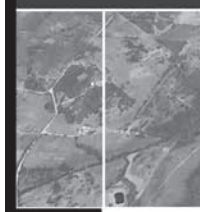


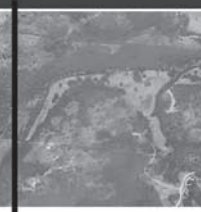



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NHSPE 2008 ANNUAL MEETING



Top Photo: Newly elected NHSPE Board of Directors
Bottom Photo: Dan Hudson, P.E. (right) turns over the NHSPE gavel to Matt Low, P.E.

This year's annual meeting was held on June 27th at the Manchester Hilton Garden Inn, overlooking the minor league baseball stadium for the New Hampshire Fisher Cats. This was the second year in row we used the baseball venue because of the wonderful atmosphere. Members were fortunate to be joined by Robert Miller, P.E., F. NSPE (VA), past president of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE).

Mr. Miller kept things light with a few introductory jokes and immediately jumped into the induction ceremony of this year's Board of Directors; incoming president Matt Low, P.E. graciously accepted the personalized gavel from outgoing president Dan Hudson, P.E. Tradition has it the gavel must be improved during each president's tenure; Dan proudly showed off the new engraved plate with NHSPE's logo. The gears were turning for next year as Matt accepted the symbolic society scepter of silence. We thank Dan for an eventful year of dedication as the President of our organization, and look forward to Matt's future leadership.

Before and after the induction of new officers we relaxed on the patio, took in the Fisher Cats game and enjoyed some good food and beverages. To top it off, the Fisher Cats beat up on the Rock Cats. 🏆

Submitted by Larry Dwyer, PE

Membership Update *New Members since January 1st:*

Gerald F. Maher, PE	Dawn B. Tuomala, PE	Joshua W. Bouchard, PE
Theodore T. Setas, PE	Seth R. Lizotte	John P. Parrelli, PE
Michael Malynowsky, PE	Jacob P. Aho	Brian T. Nereson, EIT
Daniel MacRitchie, PE	Hugh C. Scott, IV, PE	Edward J. Jansury, Jr., PE

Well, we are rolling right along through this year. I find it a little hard to believe that when I looked at my desk calendar this morning, I noticed tomorrow will mark the halfway point for 2008. Nevertheless, I am happy to report on an exciting membership development that took place this past winter. NSPE's webpage underwent a massive makeover. The clunky old site that made finding the smallest bit of information an all-out treasure hunt has been transformed into a powerful portal to engineering resources too numerous to list here. One of the best additions to the new site is the streamlined membership status and personal profile section. This is the place where you can renew your membership or update your contact information. This important information can be accessed when you click "Log In" on the homepage. I encourage you to take a spin by the new site and set up a profile, if you haven't already done so. You can visit the new and improved site at www.nspe.org. While I am on the subject of updating your membership and contact information, please take a moment to look at your mailing label that came attached to your newsletter. Is your name spelled correctly? Is your address current? If your information needs a little tune-up, please send me an email at membership@nspe.org. This will ensure that your membership remains current and will avoid any unnecessary delays in mail delivery. Thanks! 🏆

Submitted by Walter Durack V, EIT



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NEW PE DINNER

The annual New PE Dinner was held on May 13th at the Holiday Inn in Concord. At this dinner, NHSPE and the NH Board of Professional Engineers welcome new PE's to the professional engineering community. Of the 36 or so folks who attended the dinner, 10 were guests who were congratulated on their recent passing of the PE exam. In a weird twist of fate, the New PE Dinner was held in the very same room where many of these new PE's took their PE exam.

The evening started with a social hour where engineers, young and old, inexperienced and experienced, were able to network in an informal gathering, and swap 'war stories' of their PE exam. If you have never attended the annual New PE Dinner, you might consider coming to the 2009 evening, as this meeting is one of the best ways to meet some of the new PE's in NH.

Of course, even at the New PE Dinner, NHSPE offers an informative yet lively topic of discussion that all who attend will benefit from. Even though in NH a recent PE does not have to log any professional development hours (PDH's) during their first renewal period, the New PE Dinner gives a good indication of the high-quality PDH speakers that NHSPE strives to attract to their dinner and luncheon meetings.

This year was no exception, as an excellent discussion was lead by Plant Engineer Michael Ossing, the Training Manager for Seabrook Nuclear Power Station. Mr. Ossing spoke of the ethics required to be successful as an engineer and used many examples of the nuclear power industry to drive the point home. All engineers, in all engineering disciplines, whether they are recently licensed, have been licensed for many years, or are not licensed yet, can benefit greatly by applying ethics to their daily lives. This is just one more example of how NHSPE can assist in your career. If you know anyone who would like more information on the benefits of NHSPE, please contact anyone on the Board of Directors and they will assist you. 

Submitted by Craig T. Bailey, PE

ROCK SLOPE STABILIZATION MEETING


On April 24th, a NHSPE dinner meeting was held at the Common Man Restaurant in Concord, New Hampshire. The meeting topic was "Rock Slope Stabilization and Mitigation," presented by Jay R. Smerekanicz (smer-can-ix), a Professional Geologist with Golder Associates, Inc. in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Jay explained that there are a variety of reasons why rock falls happen. Obviously, gravity is the primary driver, but there are also a number of additional natural and manmade contributing factors such as discontinuances in the rock (joints, fractures, faults), erosion/weathering (freeze thaw cycles, thermal expansion), water (lubricates and adds weight), ice (expands), earthquakes, vegetation (root and tree jacking), surcharge, and manmade cuts. The four principal modes of rockfall are planar failure, wedge failure, toppling failure, and circular failure.

Investigative methods include geologic mapping (from rope rappel or crane), rock core drilling (expensive and time consuming, but sometimes vital), down-hole geophysics (optical/acoustic televiwers, maps at depth), aerial photography (inexpensive, can detect regional geologic structure), laboratory testing (determine compressive strength, shear strength, density, joint roughness), and monitoring (track slope movements).

First it is necessary to identify the hazard, and then the choices are to remove/repair the hazard (hand or mechanical scaling, drains, rock dowels/bolts, shotcrete, buttresses), avoid the hazard, or control the hazard (catchment barriers, drapes, hybrid systems, ditches).

Jay noted that unlike other engineering professions, geological engineers and engineering geologists must work with what nature has given us. We can not specify the rock type, but we can specify the rock cut angles, stabilization and protection design.

The presentation was very informative and the take away message from the meeting is that rock slopes and mitigative measures need to be treated like other structures; they need to be designed, carefully installed, and regularly inspected and maintained. 

Submitted by Daniel Hudson, PE



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House of Delegates Report

It's been a very busy spring for the House of Delegates (HOD) members as they prepare for the National meeting in mid July. In mid February, Ken Rigsby, P.E. stepped down from his position as President-Elect of NSPE, due to personal reasons. The recently revised NSPE bylaws did not clearly define a succession plan in the instance that this would occur. In a temporary move President Berson, P.E. installed Vice President Brad Aldrich P.E. of Vermont as the provisional President-Elect. This accession has since been made a permanent by the House of Delegates through electronic voting.

At the HOD meeting in July the members will vote for two (2) positions that will be open; the President-Elect and Vice President. Currently only one NSPE member has come forward and received confirmation from the Candidate Screening Committee for the position of President-Elect for 2008/2009: Sam Grossman, P.E., the current NSPE Vice President.

Two (2) candidates have stepped forward for the position of Vice President for 2008/2009: Mike Hardy P.E. of Oregon and Russell Devick, P.E. of Florida.


The HOD will also consider several candidates for the at-large position in the House of Delegates.

Several electronic votes occurred this spring related to changes in the bylaws. The intent of the electronic voting was to streamline the House of Delegates meeting and allow more time to debate and discuss relevant issues of the Society.

One of the changes to the Bylaws related to the Life and Retired Member status. During the January Board of Directors meeting a discussion ensued regarding whether NSPE should change the rules regarding Life and Retired membership status and who should be making the decision regarding changes to membership; the House of Delegates or the Board of Directors. After much debate the House of Delegates decided to change the

Bylaws to allow the Board of Directors to define the criteria required to become a Retired or Life Member.

Several other bylaws changes related to the process and procedures of the HOD meetings. This was all done in an effort to streamline the HOD meeting and allow more time to debate the substantial issues facing the Society.

Finally, a substantial amount of time at the next House of Delegates meeting will be dedicated to debate and discussion revolving around Professional Policy 168 (PP 168), which is set to sunset in July 2008. PP 168 establishes NSPE's support of the NCEES Model Law, which will require a Bachelors Degree plus 30 credit hours of continuing education before being able to sit for the licensing exam. Several articles and presentation are available regarding this issue and can be found at the NSPE website, www.nspe.org. 

Submitted by Matthew Purcell, PE



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NH Joint Engineering Societies

Fall Conference Update

Registrations Open in August for October 9, 2008 Conference (6 PDH's)!!! Even though summer is here and our respective Boards are officially on break until September, planning for our upcoming Fall Conference continues. The Planning Committee is currently working to raise funds for the conference and would encourage any and all that can participate as event sponsors to please step up and support our profession for this jointly-sponsored event.

For more information on the conference agenda (Offering 6 PDH's) and sponsorship opportunities, you can visit www.nhjes.org or www.nhspe.org and click on "NH Joint Engineering Societies."

Thanks for the continued support and have a great summer! 

Submitted by Roch D. Larochelle, PE
Planning Committee Chair

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NSPE Northeast Regional Meeting
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October 9, 2008
Annual NHJES Conference -
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for additional details.

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