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# The Society of American Military Engineers

GREATER KANSAS CITY POST  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

*“Proud Heritage - Promising Future”*



Vol. 13 No. 6  
December 2002/January 2003

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## Upcoming General Membership Meetings

### December Meeting

The Post is happy to welcome Steve Whitfield, Project Engineer Representative for Burns & McDonnell, as this month's presenter. A regular contributor to our Post newsletter, Steve has entertained us with his periodic updates from the Everglades. Come to the meeting and here the whole story! Steve has been involved with SAME for many years, and was inducted into the Academy of Fellows in 2001. Two years ago he was given the opportunity to work on the \$140M Everglades project and has relocated to Florida for three years.

Date: December 19, 2002

Time: 11:30 - Social/Registration • 12:00 - Lunch • Program to follow

Place: Cascone's, 3733 North Oak, Kansas City, MO

Menu: Chicken Limonata, Salad, Pasta w/assorted sauces, Bread, Dessert & Drink

Cost: \$15.00

RSVP: Michelle Mahoney by 12/16/02, fx: 816-472-4086; ph: 816-527-2348;  
email: mmahoney@hntb.com



### January Meeting -- Vice President's Dinner

Our Annual Vice President's Dinner and is planned for the evening of Thursday, January 23. Juan Uribe, HNTB, our 2003 Kansas City Post Vice President, will be our host. The event will be held at the New Theatre Restaurant ([www.newtheatre.com](http://www.newtheatre.com)). The show is *Caught in the Net* starring Richard Kline (Larry from Three's Company).

Date: January 23, 2003

Time: 6 pm - Seating • 6:30-7:30 - Dinner • 7:40 - Dinner Show

Place: New Theatre Restaurant, off Interstate 435 in Overland Park, KS

Watch our website for additional details on cost and RSVP information.



## KU Student Post Followup

by Sean McKee, Student Post President

The KU Student Post conducted their second meeting of the school year on November 7, 2002. Interest was again high with approximately 25 students in attendance. LTC Ron Mallare (R) was the guest speaker, and shared his military experiences, some enlightening stories about Secretary of State Colin Powell, and the engineering projects he is managing for his present employer. LTC Mallare's daughter is an engineering student at KU where she is also active in the Air Force ROTC program. The meeting was extremely enjoyable with plenty of pizza for the student post members.

The next Student Post meeting has been tentatively scheduled for December 16, 6PM, at the Military Science Building on the campus of the University of Kansas. (*Go Jayhawks!*)

## SAME Young Members

See the post web site for future updates and planned social events or contact Matt Metcalf or Ann Riedel via email at [mmetcalf@hntb.com](mailto:mmetcalf@hntb.com) or [Ann.Riedel@nwk02.usace.army.mil](mailto:Ann.Riedel@nwk02.usace.army.mil). Also see Matt's article in this issue on the SAME Mentoring Program.

## Message from the President. . .

I'm happy to report we're making significant progress on a number of fronts. First, we're finally about to receive the final check for our support to the National Conference. These funds will help support programs that will sustain our Post for many years to come. We'll host a vision conference during the January/February timeframe to look for ways to stimulate growth and support the engineering profession among the youth in our region. We kept our promise to SAME National by providing two \$15,000 gifts – one to the general treasury and one to establish a new Mentoring Program account. Of note, the first young member to participate in this program is Matt Metcalf from the Kansas City Post.

We are going through the process of updating our Post By-Laws and Constitution to fit them into contemporary needs. There aren't any major changes contemplated, but it was clear that both required an update. For those who haven't done so, please visit our website to review the Post Constitution as we will hold a general vote to approve changes at our December monthly meeting. Having a current set of operating rules is one way to keep our Post strong and relevant.

Our monthly programs have been dynamite! We had road trips to Butler Engineering and the World War One Memorial, we learned about emergency management, and we're about to learn about Florida Everglades restoration. The programs are fun, relevant, and provide CEU/PDU credit—what a deal! My thanks to the Programs Committee for their hard work.

We're emphasizing the importance of young members in SAME and we're doing well in attracting and keeping new members. The KU Student Chapter has a record number of members this year and our young members did a magnificent job hosting last month's meeting. We will again sponsor a PE refresher program to attract new members and promote licensing.

As you can see, we're busy and our efforts are showing remarkable results. My thanks you all for your hard work and involvement. America needs its engineers now more than ever and it's gratifying to see our Post so engaged.

**Don Curtis, COL,  
Post President**

[Donald.R.Curtis.COL@nwk02.usace.army.mil](mailto:Donald.R.Curtis.COL@nwk02.usace.army.mil)



Don Curtis, COL  
Post President

## Treasurer's Report

Following is a summary of the Post's funds and account statuses for the period of November 4, 2002 to December 5, 2002. *Note: this report has not been approved by the SAME KC Post Board*

### Operating Fund:

\$4,142.54 UMB  
Net Change = -\$543.90

### Merrill Lynch Fund: (Scholarship & Future Operating Fund)

\$40,595.03 Principal  
\$ 5,520.03 Accrued Earnings (Cash)  
\$46,115.06

## KC SAME Post Upcoming 2003 Meetings

Meetings are tentatively scheduled for the 4th Thursday, with the exception of those that conflict with holidays or guest speaker schedules. Mark your 2003 calendars now:

|             |           |              |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| January 23  | May 22    | September 25 |
| February 27 | June 26   | October 23   |
| March 27    | July 24   | November 20  |
| April 24    | August 28 | December 18  |

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### Please Help Us Maintain the Post Database

Please submit address changes to Bill Koski at [koskiwa@cdm.com](mailto:koskiwa@cdm.com) to help us maintain current membership information. You can also update your personal information on the Post's website at [www.same.org/kansascity/](http://www.same.org/kansascity/)

### SAME Newsletter, Greater Kansas City Post

**President:** COL Donald Curtis • **Secretary:** Frank Bader

#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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#### Feb/Mar Issue Deadline for Submittals: February 12, 2003

*This newsletter is issued every other month. We are currently accepting project writeups, members in the news, and job opportunities for our next publication. Please email your entry to Phil Dula (see information above) or Lori Hintz (ph: 651/291-3436 or [lorih@baywest.com](mailto:lorih@baywest.com)).*



# General Membership Meeting Followups

## October Meeting Followup

by Phil Dula, Bay West, Inc.

Thanks to Butler Manufacturing for providing us the opportunity to tour of their research facility and new headquarters building. Our October meeting was held on October 24, 2002 as a field trip and two-part educational session. Two hours of continuing education credit hours were earned by those attending this field trip. The field trip commenced at 2:00 PM at the Butler Research Center in Grandview, MO and then proceeded to Butler World Headquarters in Kansas City, MO where we toured their new headquarters building and enjoyed a cocktail reception. If you were able to attend this SAME event, you learned that the Butler Research facility is:

- Considered the most comprehensive R&D operation in the industry.
- That materials and components are tested daily prior to their use in construction.
- That simulation of exposure of their buildings materials to UV rays and heat, dew accumulation, and acid rain are completed daily.
- That load capacity, tensile strength, and wind uplift tests on structural members and roof assemblies are routinely completed.

Butler Manufacturing's new 150,000 sf headquarters building opened in January 2002 and developed on a design/build basis. The building was designed by CDFM2 in just 7 months. Construction of the building was completed by JE Dunn (a Butler Builder®) in 12 months. The headquarters building showcases a myriad of Butler framing, roof and wall systems throughout. Extensive use of curtain wall, window-walls, and skylights by Butler's Vistawall division were used throughout the building. The building incorporates many current best practices in workplace design and houses 400 employees.

Thank you to David Evers, Dennis Smith, and Myron Kottwitz of Butler Manufacturing for hosting and leading this event.



The October meeting was an impressive and educational tour of the Butler Research Center and new Butler World Headquarters.



## November Meeting Followup

by Tom Poer, HNTB



The Young Member's committee hosted the joint SAME\ASCE November meeting at Californos Restaurant in Westport on November 21st. The featured speaker was Michael D. Selves, C.E.M., C.P.M. Director, Emergency Management Johnson County, Kansas. Mr. Selves presented the overall mission of the Johnson County Emergency Management program. He



Matt Metcalf, HNTB,  
and the KC Post  
Young Members Co-Leader

provided good insight on Johnson County's Emergency Preparedness plans that are developed to mobilize support and recovery from tornados, flooding, ice storms, terrorism and other potential threats. Thanks to our Young Members group for hosting this Meeting. Mr. Selves presentation was extremely informative enlightening those in attendance of the hard work that occurs daily in keeping our communities ready to respond in the event of a catastrophe.



### Tetra Tech, Inc.

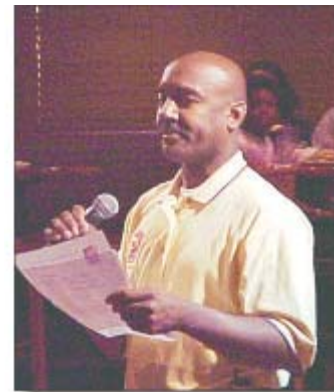
- Homeland Defense Projects
- Site Assessment and Remediation
- Stormwater Engineering
- Habitat Restoration
- NEPA/Wetlands Permitting
- Geotechnical Investigations

Ed Hubert, Operations Mgr.  
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<http://www.tetra.com>



# SAME National Conference Appreciation Night

On November 1, 2002 we celebrated the success of our 2002 SAME National Conference at the American Bandstand Restaurant in Overland Park, KS. Our volunteers that chaired or contributed their time to the many committees required to make this event the tremendous success it was, were honored (see our June/July 2002 Newsletter). A great time was had by all. The commemorative kaleidoscopes given as a gift to our volunteers were warmly received.



*Happy Holidays!*



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## Spring 2003 P.E. Refresher Course

by Tom Poer, HNTB

To promote Youth Education in the Kansas City community, the Greater Kansas City Post is sponsoring the P.E. Refresher Course available to all members of the Greater Kansas City engineering community taking the NCEES Professional Engineering Exam. Space in the program is limited and slots in the program will be assigned as follows:

### Current SAME Member Registration Period -

Open to members of Greater KC post of SAME prior to December 9, 2002. Slots will be assigned on first come—first served basis.

**Open Registration Period** - Open to ALL members of the Greater Kansas City area taking the NCEES Professional Engineering Exam. Any remaining slots will be assigned on first come—first served basis. Following confirmation of available slot for you in the SAME sponsored program, you will be required to complete SAME membership form.

Note: Individuals without Greater KC Post memberships prior to December 9, 2002 can get their name on the list prior to the Open Registration Period, however an open slot can not be guaranteed.

To get your name on the list, contact Tom Poer at [tpoer@hntb.com](mailto:tpoer@hntb.com) or 816-527-2357.

### TIMETABLE

16 Dec. 2002 - Fall Registration Begins

8 Jan. 2003 - Current SAME Member Registration Closes

27 Jan. 2003 - Open Registration Period Closes

27 Jan. 2003 - Kick-off Meeting

11 Apr. 2003 - Spring Exam

### COURSE OPTIONS

- University of Kansas Live Civil Course: <http://www.kuce.org/app/civeng/perc/>  
Partial sponsorship available.
- University of Missouri Online Civil Course: <http://muconf.missouri.edu/cyberpe/>  
Full sponsorship available.
- Text Reimbursement - \$100 paid to individual for their purchase of text.
- Kick-off Meeting (open to anyone - membership in SAME not required).

For more information on the spring course contact Tom Poer at (816) 527-2357, [tpoer@hntb.com](mailto:tpoer@hntb.com), or see the Post Web Site at [www.same.org/kansascity/PEFrame.htm](http://www.same.org/kansascity/PEFrame.htm)

## SAME Mentoring Program

Matt Metcalf, SAME Young Member

Mentoring has long been a hot discussion item in both the public and private sectors, and for good reason. Strong mentoring programs help organizations broaden and diversify the capabilities of their junior personnel and can help enhance the leadership potential of those individuals. In addition, these programs can sharply increase employee satisfaction and loyalty and provides them with valuable exposure to members of the senior leadership staff in an environment that allows them to gain confidence.



Matt Metcalf

Dr. Robert Wolff, P.E., the new Executive Director for SAME., has been a long-time proponent of mentoring and has recently implemented a program at the SAME Headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. The program is part of the continuing effort by HQ to provide value to the society's Sustaining Member firms and Posts. This 2- to 4-week program has been designed to provide benefit to the individual, the parent organization, and the Society.

The Kansas City Post was the first to take advantage of this program. I was nominated by the Post to participate in the program and was sponsored by HNTB. In early December, I completed the first of a 3-week stint at HQ, and had the opportunity to work one-on-one with the Executive Director of SAME. I was also tasked with working on a proposal which I briefed to the executive committee, headed by Admiral Johnson who was sitting in for General Flowers.

This has been a tremendously rewarding program and I am grateful to the KC Post and HNTB for making it possible for me to participate. I look forward to completing the remainder of the program in January.

If you are interested in participating in the new SAME HQ Mentoring Program, more information can be found on the web at [www.same.org](http://www.same.org), or you can contact me at (816) 333-0976 or at [mmetcalf@hntb.com](mailto:mmetcalf@hntb.com).

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## Corps Hosts Earthquake Seminar

The Kansas City District USACE hosted the New Madrid Earthquake Response Seminar on November 20, 2002. Brig. Gen. David Fastabend and Col. Don Curtis presided over the informational seminar. Agencies in attendance included the USACE, FEMA, SEMA, EPA, American Red Cross, MO National Guard, MO Dam Safety, MO Task Force One—Urban Search and Rescue, MoDOT, MO Dept of Health and Senior Services, MO Public Service Commission, and SAME. Existing readiness programs were discussed and actions for the state and federal agencies were developed.

The New Madrid fault is located in southeast Missouri and a significant earthquake event would have a major impact on the state its neighbors. An earthquake with a 7.6 Richter magnitude could cause buildings to collapse in St. Louis and furniture overturning and windows breaking in Kansas City. The SAVE program (Structural Assessment and Visual Evaluation) organized by SEMA (State Emergency Management Agency) is a great readiness program for earthquake preparedness. This is a program that trains volunteers with experience in building design and construction to structurally assess buildings and vertical structures following catastrophic events. More information can be found on the Post Web Site at [www.same.org/kansascity/ReadinessFrame.htm](http://www.same.org/kansascity/ReadinessFrame.htm).

## Proposed Revisions to Post Constitution and By-Laws

The Officers and Board of Directors are recommending revisions to the specific Articles and Sections of the Greater Kansas City Post Constitution and By-Laws. The recommended revisions by the Board of Direction are designated by an asterisk and highlighted in yellow. Comments to the recommended changes to the Post Constitution and Bylaws should be sent NLT 16 Dec to:

Larry Myers @ [larry.l.myers@usace.army.mil](mailto:larry.l.myers@usace.army.mil),  
fax: 816.426.5575 or mailed at the following address: USACE, KC  
Attn: XA/Larry Myers, 700 Federal Bldg.,  
601 East 12th Street, K.C. MO 64106.

The full text and revisions can be found at: <http://www.same.org/kansascity/Constitution-BylawsFrame.htm>. Thanks for your coordination and support on this matter. More information on SAME can be found at the Post's web site at: <http://www.same.org/kansascity/>

# Happy Holidays

## To You and Yours

From the Editors of the Greater Kansas City  
Post SAME Newsletter

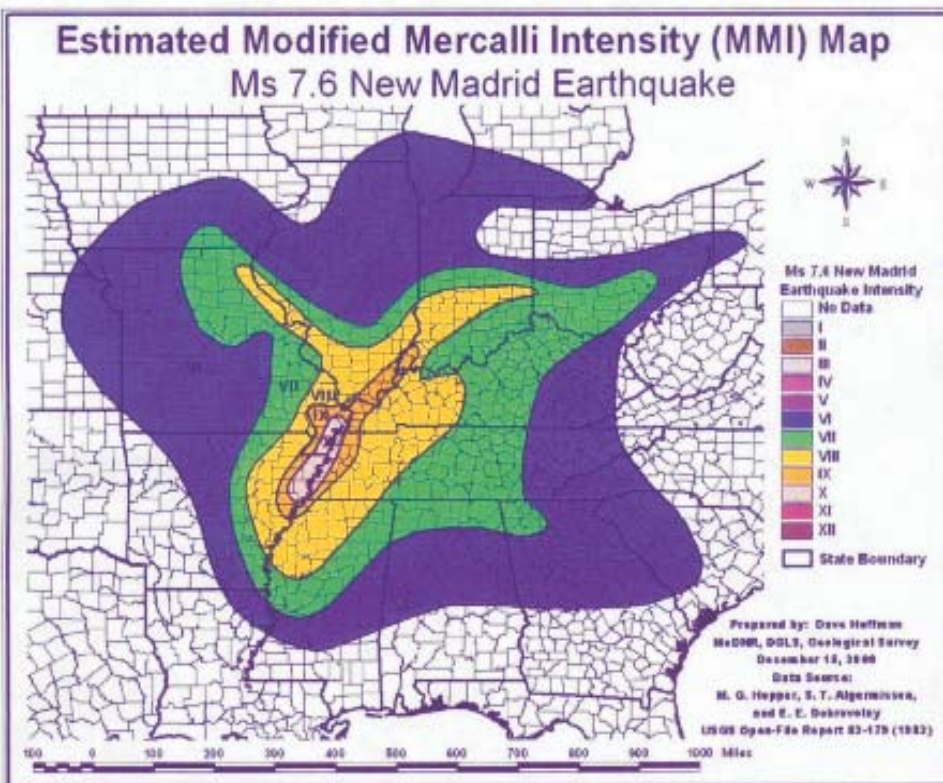


## Brain Teaser

Since it is Football season and our Chiefs are still in the hunt for a playoff spot this math problem is presented for our readers' amusement.

Priest Holmes takes a long rope and ties it to the bottom of the goal post at Arrowhead Stadium. He then runs it across the length of the field 120 yards to the other goal post, He stretches it tight and ties it to the bottom of this goal post so that the rope lies flat against the field. Priest now adds one foot of slack to the rope so that he can now lift it off the ground at the 50 yard line. How high can he lift it?

1. Not high enough to fit his finger under it
  2. Just high enough to crawl under
  3. Just high enough to walk under
  4. High enough to drive a truck under
- Check your answer on Page 7.



# On Station in the Everglades

by Steve Whitfield

*(Steve is a Resident Representative for Burns & McDonnell on a project to restore the Florida Everglades, and transferred from Burns & McDonnell's Kansas City Office to Florida. As a former Kansas City Post President and active Board member, Steve has been keeping us updated on his new endeavors.)*



6:45 am, Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, typical day, on the way to work. Still dark and rain is forecast today from Tropical Depression 14, or TD14. Somewhat foggy, which really shows up as I pass the lights on the batch plant, already loading trucks for a big pour. The pump stations are on schedule and looking to reach elevation 31.0, the operating floor level, by December. The stations began at elevation -16.0. Nearly 40K cy of concrete go into these two structures, with about 75% already poured. It is akin to building a 5-story building, with three of the stories underground.

Sugar cane harvest well underway as the fields are being burned off. Farmer's first aerial sprayed growth retardant on the fields. The burning adds smoke to the normal road hazards and the harvest equipment and trucks add to traffic safety concerns. This will be the last harvest within the project site area, after which the remaining farm fields will be turned over to the Water Management District, the project owners. Working around and adjacent to active farming operations has been one of the major challenges of the 17,000-acre project. When farmers are gone, by February next, conflict issues should pretty much go away.

A lot of birds are moving around now; with large flocks of them everywhere. On a recent chopper ride, we came uncomfortably close to a large bunch. A recent ground encounter with several thousand birds in a mixed flock that included dozens of the rare red/pink Roseate Spoonbill.

Things are really coming together. The earthworks contractor is at least listening and making an effort to meet contract requirements. It means he is having to redo a good deal of what he thought he was finished with. Still an occasional shouting match but cool heads usually prevail. The guy who threatened to kill me is long gone now so tempers are cooler. Pump stations are nearing the operating floor level, intake bays are rip-rapped and much of the excavation around the stations is completed.

Highway bridges have been paved and work is ongoing in the median and the side ditches. After guard rails and final grading, sodding and seeding, the detour will be removed and the traffic rerouted to its normal pattern. The bridges look very good as the contractor knew what he was doing and took pride in his work

Saw two whitetail deer yesterday and lots of alligators are about. Watched an otter in one of the farm canals for about five minutes, before heading back to the admin trailer. Cane burning recently drove out a family of wild hogs, with a bunch of young ones. The wildlife continues to fascinate me. Weather has been cool for a couple of weeks



Roseate Spoonbill

as cold fronts pass through, one after another. We see high 50s, low 60s overnight and 75 during the days, although two days ago it was 85. Feels darn cold to me, although I know temps are in the teens and twenties up north. Snow-birds are packing the highways and shopping malls. Christmas just around the corner.



Getting ready to pour the operating floors, known as level 31 for their elevations, on the two pump stations. Contractors and subs all got together yesterday to work details and plan the pours. The electrical sub has the most to do before the pours. There are thousands of feet of conduit of all sizes, that get buried in the 4-foot-thick floor. The rebar tiers are going full bore to get all the bottom steel tied before the electricians can do their thing. Contractor expects to use about 50 electricians to get ready. First pour is set for December 23<sup>rd</sup> and will start at 5:00 am. The two decks will require between 1,600 and 2,000 cy of concrete each. All trades will be required to sign off a check sheet that their work is finished and meets specs. There is an enormous amount of coordination required and many workers must avoid conflicts in a relatively small space. Reminds me of a military operation. This is exciting stuff! Just the material lists for embeds, mechanicals, rebar, forms, etc., etc., are mind boggling. Thank goodness for computer programs and experienced people. Will let you know how it all goes.

I plan to be in KC for the December SAME meeting where I hope to see you guys.

## Brain Teaser Answer

Answer: 4  
It will be 13.43 feet high at the 50 yard line.  
Solve by using the Pythagorean theorem.