



North Winds

VOICE OF THE ANCHORAGE POST

September 2008 Edition

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Meeting

25 September 2008, 1130

Moose Lodge

Just North of Tudor on Arctic

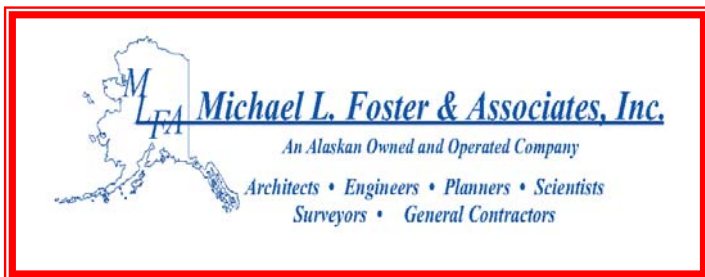
Executive Board Meeting

26 September 2008, 0630

Country Kitchen

(Next to the Sheraton between Fifth and Sixth.)

This month's sponsor is:



Monthly Meeting

Society of American Military Engineers August Monthly Meeting will be Thursday, September 25, 1130 to 1300 at the Anchorage Moose Lodge located just north of the corner of Arctic and Tudor. Please RSVP no later than September 22 to Andy Larson at: andy@discoverydrilling.com.

Guest Speaker

This month's speaker is Dale Colby. Currently he is the Assistant Base Manager at the Navy Supervisor of Salvage's (SUPSALV) Emergency Ship Salvage Materials (ESSM) Base located at Fort Richardson. Dale will discuss SUPSALV's mission worldwide and describe the roles SUPSALV plays in supporting DoD entities in Alaska. In addition Dale will describe

equipment and response capabilities of ESSM Base Alaska.

Dale has worked at ESSM Anchorage for 12 years. Prior to that, he worked for a government contractor at Galena, AK, as an airfield manager/fire fighter. He retired from the AF in 1993 as an E-8. He worked on the Kuroshima oil spill in Summer Bay near Dutch Harbor, Navy site at Wales, AK north of Nome and the tail end of the Whittier Fuel Depot clean-up and close down effort. In 2003, he worked on a combined team of Navy/USCG and Navy contractor personnel in the Persian Gulf for spill response of oil delivery platforms.

President's Column

For those of you who missed the August monthly meeting, we had a great presentation by the two high schoolers the Post sponsored to attend the SAME Construction Camp this summer. While a little nervous to be speaking in public, they did a great job of telling the Post how much the experience meant to them and how grateful they were for the opportunity. It was a great example of what the Society was established for – to groom young Americans for careers in science and engineering. With school starting up again you'll also see Post activity pick up as we seek mentors and teachers for our country's future. This includes support for MATH COUNTS, the science fair, robotics, and mentors for UAA's senior design course. For those of you trying to find engineers and craftsmen for your businesses you know how desperately we need both and how important it is to get young people interested in the career field.

Be sure to reserve January 24, 2009 on your calendars. That's the date of the annual Anchorage Post Banquet and we've got a special speaker booked for this year. No, not Magic Don, though Don certainly generated lots of conversation.

Through the hard work of our banquet committee we've been able to confirm a prominent, Alaskan, female politician. You won't want to miss it.

Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting Minutes SAME, Anchorage Post

Date/Time: 29 August 08/0630

Location: Country Kitchen Restaurant

Attendees: Mr. Patrick Coullahan, Mr. Tim Gallagher, Ms. Kathy Jacobson, Mr. Skip Koch, Mr. Alan Quesnel, Mr. Bruce Steely, Mr. Kevin Thomas, Ms. Vivian Tokar, Mr. Ted Trueblood, Mr. Chris Turletes, Mr. Robert Wrentmore, Mr. Tom York, Col Kevin Wilson, Maj Bryan Erickson, Capt Matthew Albers.

Not Present: Mr. Steve Schwicht, Mr. Tad Dean, Ms Kathy Gardner, Capt Matthew Anderson, Mr. George Herr, Mr. Andy Larson, Mr. Everett Mabry, Ms. Karen Padgett, Mr. Jamie Spell, Ms. Andrea Soland, Maj Erik Sell, Mr. John Costello, Mr. Bill Kontess, Mr. John Magee, Mr. Craig Lance.

Proceedings:

- Mr. Kevin Thomas, Post President, opened the meeting at 0640.
- Treasurer: Kathy Jacobson
 - The Post accounts are up to date up to the 26th of August
 - The Golf Tournament money is all accounted for
 - Money is being set aside for the upcoming banquet, any possible seminars, and for possible scholarships
- Programs: Alan Quesnel
 - The September luncheon speaker was discussed. Mr. Quesnel indicated that US Navy SUPSALV (Supervisor of Salvage) personnel will speak, they were unable to attend the August meeting due to scheduling issues
 - A speaker from BP is still being looked into
 - A speaker from URS is tentatively scheduled for December
- o Banquet: Vivian Tokar
 - The banquet is scheduled for January 28th at the Egan Center
 - Several people have volunteered to help with the banquet
 - There is no volunteer to head up the banquet

- Fran Ulmer has been asked to speak at the banquet
- o Scholarships: Chris Turletes
 - A review of the investment policy will be conducted on the Talley Fund
 - Scholarships for college students will be online NLT October 1st
- o President's Report:
 - The members need to start thinking about new post leaders for 2009
 - The Post Leader's Workshop is Sept. 5-6 in Arlington, VA.
- Other:
 - The PDH program is ready to start
 - Seminars given by the Highway Institute were discussed, topics will range in cost from approximately \$500 to \$1000 per student depending on the topic, a location to host the seminars has not yet been selected
 - A new Sustaining Member POC is needed by the Post
 - The Post is looking for nominations for members deserving of SAME annual awards
 - Streamers submissions are due by January 1st
- Mr. Kevin Thomas, Post President, closed the BOD meeting at 0731

SAME Engineering and Construction Camp 2008 Anchorage Post Camper Report

After Action Review

This year our two campers were Joseph Brown (**JB**) a Senior at Dimond High School and a member of the Army JROTC unit; and Michael Larson (**ML**) a Senior at Service High School and a member of the Navy JROTC unit. Below is the After Action Review questions posed to them by the Post. Joseph and Michael were both at the August meeting and gave their reports in person. Both thanked the Post for the experience, one neither will forget anytime soon and one they would not have otherwise gotten. After the Q&A, Michael Larson has submitted his adventure journal.

Q1. Tell us what Camp you went to:

JB. I went to SAME Engineering camp at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. It was hot, dry and it was truly the first time that I had felt

air conditioning in several years of living in Alaska.

ML. Hueneme, California

Q2. Where did you eat, work and sleep?

JB. We ate and slept at camp. All of the real work was at camp as well.

ML. I ate at the mess hall on the Port Hueneme base. I worked on the base and other areas too. We slept in tents on the base.

Q3. What were the demographics of Camp?

JB. The camp was very well thought out, planned, and prepared by people who really knew what they were doing. A lot of it developed our teamwork abilities, knowledge, social skills, and other important factors that develop a well rounded citizen.

ML. There were 40 kids. Mostly boys. The kids came from all over the US, plus two: one from Korea and the other from Puerto Rico.

Q4. What was the worst thing about camp?

JB. One of the groups got very cocky and it annoyed everyone but themselves. Others and I went through some harassment during camp but the leaders quickly responded and stopped it.

ML. I do not recall when there was a bad thing about camp.

Q5. What was the best thing about camp?

JB. I liked the fact that I was put in the position of being thousands of miles away from home and was attending a nationwide sponsored camp. I did not know a single soul there and that made me learn about myself as well as engineering.

ML. You got to meet new people and experience new things everyday at camp.

Q6. What was the funniest or most outrageous thing?

JB. That was when we had a Brigadier General sit with us for lunch and he let us wear his beret. We passed it around and took pictures.

ML. The nicknames my squad came up with were pretty funny.

Q7. What life lesson did you learn?

JB. I learned that everybody's very different from one another. Everyone has different habits, actions, and reactions. I also learned that everyone has their strengths and weaknesses and that a team works when everyone cooperates and contributes their character, skills, and talents for the benefit of the team. I was taught the above in a classroom setting, but never firsthand like this.

ML. Never give up.

Q8. Did you enjoy the Experience?

JB. I did a lot. I took full advantage of the opportunity to feel a bit independent miles away from home. There were things at camp that many may not get to do in a life time, like tour NORAD and the Air Force Academy. These were really neat things that I got to do.

ML. I enjoyed it very much.

Q9. Would you recommend the camp to a friend or class mate?

JB. Yes. I would definitely. There are many kids out there that want to be a success in their lives but don't quite know how. This camp is definitely one to consider to another.

ML. I would recommend this camp to just about everybody. They would all enjoy. I could guarantee it.

Q10. What recommendations would you make to next years campers?

JB. I would recommend bringing a lot of sunscreen and sun glasses. I would also recommend sun tanning in your spare time to avoid a farmer's tan. Also, talk to your folks often because this will keep you from ending camp speaking in a southern accent like I did.

ML. I would recommend to them to bring a positive attitude with them.

Q11. Will you be continuing with the military and/ or science or engineering in college (tell us your plans as you know them now)?

JB. I plan to become a cadet at the USMA at West point. I want to pursue a degree in aeronautical engineering and hope to become an Army Aviator. I will serve in my church as a missionary in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. After graduating I want to join the Special Forces.

ML. I am planning to join the navy Seabees when I get out of high school.

Q12. Anything else you'd like to say to the Post about the experience?

JB. I really enjoyed this wonderful once in a lifetime opportunity. Thank you for investing your time, efforts, and finances so that I can be a responsible citizen in my community.

ML. There is nothing more I can say.

SAME Anchorage Post Camper for the Engineering and Construction Camp

Summer Sea Bee By Michael Larson

My name is Michael Larson. I was born and raised, here in Anchorage, Alaska. I am the second oldest of a family of seven: three girls and two boys. My siblings were born and raised here, too. My dad was born in Pennsylvania and my mom was born in California. I have a great family, and I would never let them down.

I attend Robert Service High School, here in Anchorage. I have participated in the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps for the past three years, and I'm now going into my fourth. I believe that ROTC is a great program for everyone, even if they are not planning on going into the service. It gives you self-discipline and confidence that you'll need for the rest of your life.

I first learned about the Seabee Engineering Camp when Grace Amundsen, a past recipient, gave a presentation at our school. She talked about the activities she did and what things she learned. For the people who were interested in taking the advantage of this opportunity, I was one of those people; Grace had them go to a website-- www.same.org. There, we were to fill out an application and hopefully be nominated for the scholarship. Each year there are only a few scholarships available to recipients that are selected to go.

So after all the paperwork was done and turned in on time, I now just had to play the waiting game. Sometime later my post, posts are the ones who select the recipients, called me and we set up a time and date to meet each other. He turned out to be a very nice man named Chris Turletes. When he came towards my parents and I, we all stood up and shook his hand. He talked to us about where the camp was and when it was going to start. We actually didn't get full confirmation from him until Erin Ingersoll, who had some part of the organization, but I do not recall what, sent him the 'yes, Michael Larson is in'.

On the last day of school, there was a celebration for the two recipients going for the trip. There was a boy named Joseph who attends A.J. Dimond High School and me. He didn't actually show up because, I think, of the finals held at his school. I had no more finals for that day. Different schools run their schedules differently. The ceremony was actually a pretty big deal. People came up to me and shook my hand, and I even got some gear for the trip: safety glasses, hardhat, and working gloves. I wasn't able to stay for the whole thing because school was still in session.

The Seabee engineering camp was held at Port Hueneme (Why-nee-me), California. It ran from July 20 to July 26. I was to wake up at 5:45am and go to bed at 10:00pm each day. It was one of the best times of my life.

Seabee, which is actually abbreviated as CB, stands for Construction Battalion. A battalion is made up of two companies; a company would consist of up to about five platoons. Without the Seabees, World War II wouldn't have been successful.

Sunday, July 20, 2008

I woke up at 5:45AM and got dressed and all. My father took me to the Ted Stevens International Airport and I boarded the Alaskan Airlines at 7:20AM. The plane didn't depart until 8:00AM. There were two stops made before I arrived in Santa Barbara, California, where I was to be picked up by a man named Cody Reese, who was from the Seabee program I was going to.

My first plan was to fly from Anchorage to Portland, Oregon to Santa Barbara, California. Then it was changed because I missed my flight leaving Portland. There were some reasons why I missed my plane, but I would not wish to reveal (only that I wasn't aware of the time difference).

I met an old gentleman named Hank Galebski. He is a US Marine retired, who was probably about in his eighties. I say that because he was in a wheelchair and had cane in hand. He was very polite. I told Mr. Galebski about my wanting to join the navy Seabees and I asked him if he knew who they were.

"Yes," he said.

I said, "A lot of people I've met don't know about the Seabees."

"A lot of people don't have four bullet holes in their back," Mr. Galebski replied.

It was nice meeting him. It would be really neat if I saw him again.

Back to my hectic situation, I was very alarmed that I had *missed* the plane. *Oh man, what am I going to do*, I thought. I went up to the ticket lady at the gate and said that I had just missed the plane. She asked me why and I told her. Then she told another ticket lady about my case. So they immediately went into the computer to find another flight that would get me to Santa Barbara.

At first the second ticket lady said that she had found a flight for me from Portland to Las Vegas, Nevada, and then I would have to take red-eye the next day. I said I couldn't do that because then I'll be even later than I already was. I was supposed to get to California by 4:20pm. This was not my day.

Fortunately, they found another flight: from Portland to Phoenix, Arizona then on to Santa Barbara, California (and no red-eyes!). I would now get to

Santa Barbara by 9:20pm. I called my mom ("Mom, can you sit down for a minute? Sit down. Now hang on to your hat.") and she was, well, how all moms would be at this point. But she soon calmed down a bit and I told her to call Cody to let him know that I would be in later.

So I ran to the next gate and sat down to wait for the announcements. Then in no time the stewardess from the aircraft got on the speaker to move people on the plane in an orderly fashion.

I got on the plane and soon after we took off. I was sitting next to a man named Rick, who was probably in his 30s. He was also a very nice fella, just like Hank Galebski. I believe Rick worked for some sort of management department for Wal-Mart or something down in San Antonio, Texas. I asked him if he lived in Oregon and he did. His job just made him go back and forth. I also asked him if he's been to Alaska, but he hadn't. I told him that when he gets a chance to, he should. He said "Okay."

We, at last, landed in Phoenix, Arizona. When I got off the plane, I immediately asked the time so that I wouldn't set myself up for failure again. I thought it was interesting that Arizona's time doesn't change at all; no Daylight Savings. I went to the next gate, sat down, and read my book while I waited. I called my mother to tell her that I was at the Phoenix airport safe and sound. My mom gave me Cody's phone number, which I should've had in the first place. Then I phoned my grandmother to tell her my ordeal and also to ask for my uncle's phone number.

So first I called Chris to tell him about my ordeal as well. Then I got a hold of my Uncle Bernie who lives in Reno, Nevada. I told him about where I was headed, what the Seabees was all about, and what my day was like. He told me that he just got back from Sacramento, California. My uncle works with a candy company and he also attends college. Bernie is one of my most favorite uncles, though he wasn't always around just to play with my siblings and me.

I got on the plane and we took off. I met a lady named Nancy. She was very nice. I told her about what grade I was going into, and what classes I planned to take: acting, and DDF (drama, debate and forensics) and how both acting and DDF has gotten me out of my comfort zone. She thought that

was just excellent. I learned that she's a mother of one or two, I don't remember.

Hallelujah, I finally made it to Santa Barbara, California. I got on my phone and called Cody to see where he was. He was already approaching our meeting spot in front of Baggage Claim B. I was really surprised to see that the Santa Barbara airport was so small; probably the smallest airport in America.

So I got picked up, and Cody briefed me about what I had missed. He said I just missed stuff such as rules about cell phones, cameras, et cetera. He informed me of the itinerary for that week, but I didn't really remember all of it because I was mighty tired from the really long day.

There were 40 kids at camp already. They were broken down into four groups of ten. Then for each team there was one squad leader and two mentors. Cody and I got to camp and I went to my tent and my cot, which the boys in there had set up for me. I got into my pajamas and went right to sleep.

Monday, July 21, 2008

I woke up when the lights in the tent came on and the boys and I got ready for the day. Then we went to the mess hall for breakfast.

Afterwards breakfast, we went to a classroom where we were briefed on the first project: concrete beams. For supplies we had four pieces of wood, Quikrete concrete, four pieces of rebar, measuring tape, bailing wire, saw, wire cutters, hammer, nails, pliers, shovel, wheelbarrow, and a funnel-like instrument with a steel bar. This was my first time working with cement so I was just rearin' to go. Making the beam was really fun.

I had learned from this project that if you put too much water in the cement mix, then your concrete will be weaker; you put too little water, your concrete will be stronger, but difficult to work with. The concrete was tested on Friday. The details I'll mention later.

On the way to the chow hall after the project was finished, we all made up nicknames for each person in our squad including our squad leader and two

mentors. Then we went on some tours to places such as MUSE, which I do not recall what the acronym stands for. I just remember a lot of generators there. There also Underwater Construction Team (UCT) building. There was a LARC (Lighter Amphibious Resupply Cargo) that I saw. LARCs are made to go out to sea and run supplies to ships and also for going out and get in a spot for the divers to drop in the water. A cool thing about a LARC is that you could drive it on the road and then goes into the water until it comes up below the lip (where you would get on and off the LARC).

After the tours, we went back to camp to grab gear for the beach for a nice barbeque. The beach wasn't far from base. I brought along some sunscreen and a beach towel. I was wearing a SAME shirt, which stands for Society of American Military Engineers, and gray jeans.

At first, I decided not to go into the ocean, but then I had a sudden urge for wanting to go in so I rolled up my pant legs, and walked on toward the water. I only went in just below knee-deep. The water was pretty cold, but I forced myself to deal with it. After a while, I walked back towards the barbeque. Food was just about ready.

There were hot dogs and hamburgers to choose from. While I waited, I just stirred up conversations with the staff just talking about Alaska and all. Some time later we got up and around loading vehicles with the coolers and grills.

We came to camp and got set up for bed, then we walked around during Company's time, or liberty as some people call it. Finally we hit the sack.

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

We woke up and did our routine mornings. It was a full day of stuff. We went to tours and had our Seabee Olympics. Some of the tours I can't speak of because some things just aren't open to the public. But there are a couple tours I'll talk about. I went to this small building that contained a MTRV training simulator. MTRV stands for Military Tactical Vehicle Replacement. You would probably see these on the TV show M*A*S*H where the vehicles would bring supplies and/or transport people to different spots. They are gray-greenish and the load in the rear has

a canopy over it. There were two scenarios that they would let you do.

The simulator is actually a part of the test for going up ranks, but I don't remember which. You had to avoid obstacles such as walls, trees, boulders, water, and other things you could see out in front of you. The MTRV training simulator was very realistic. Now I will discuss the Olympics. You had to have good behavior and good sportsmanship. The Olympics consisted of sawing wood, nail driving, tug of war with the Hummer just hauling it in between starting and finishing points, grenade throwing, and hauling dummies, weighing about 100 pounds, to safety.

Another big event that I nearly forgot to mention is that we started making bridges made out of Popsicle sticks and wood glue. We used binder clips to hold joints together.

There were many of bridge styles I learned about such as Truss, etc. That day was just a blast!

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Today each squad built a cardboard boat at a pool. For supplies we had pieces of 4x8 cardboard, yardstick, plastic wrap, and duct tape. The plastic wrap was used to make the boat waterproof. We figured out a design, got it approved and went right to work. The boat was designed as a rectangular body with a triangular nose to keep the boat buoyant. There were three things they were looking for on our boats: buoyancy, how safe the boat is, and something else I don't recall. We built two models of our boat: one big, one small. The smaller one was to fit inside the big one, so that the middle doesn't bend as easy. Before we were able to finish, we went to lunch at a nearby park. We had Papa John's pizza and it tasted pretty good. We had a female guest speaker from the navy and she talked about herself and how fascinated she was to see us all at the Seabee Engineering Camp. When the guest speaker was done, we loaded up chairs and table into a trailer and went back to the pool to finish up our boat project.

We used a lot of duct tape, probably about three to five rolls, and saran wrap. We made an opening inside the boat not to big. Later you were able to put

your hand in the opening and it was so hot that you could practically cook an egg in it. Then we had a boat race and we all had a blast. My squad's boat was really difficult to sink.

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Today I went to the Gypsy Rack, which is a company that specializes in making and testing armor and bulletproof glass.

There had a fascinating ballistics testing simulator. It is to prove whether or not the armor or glass is good enough to be put inside a military vehicle. What they use to test is a model .50 caliber rifle and three different beams that the bullet passes and each beam reads different statistics.

We also went to tour around Fugro, a company where geology is studied. It was a very large building with neat stuff in there. This suddenly reminded me of my grandfather, Bernie Leas Sr., who is a semi-retired geologist. I've been to my grandfather's workshop and watched my mother smash rocks and study them and what are inside them and that, to me, was fun. One of the geologists talking to my group said that they find pretty odd things. They've found 20 Honda Civics in the ocean in which they all went off the pier. Imagine that!

Friday, July 25, 2008

Today is getting closer to departing day. Friends will go home in different directions. We went to NAVFAC (Naval Facilities Engineering Command) to test how much weight or pounds per square inch (psi) our concrete beams can handle. It was really remarkable how many psi each squad had. (For both concrete and bridge activities each squad was broken down into groups of five. So the results would go like: 1A=..., 1B=..., and so on.) At first, they said that first squad—my squad—had the highest psi reading (3858 psi), but then two other squads received 6,000 to over 7,000 psi.

Next we went to the classroom and tested our bridges' psi. Each squad had different styles of bridges. The testing apparatus was a square frame with two poles sticking on both sides of it for counterweight. Then a metal doohickey was placed on the road of the bridge. Suspended from the

doohickey was a square slate with chains at each corner tied to the doohickey and a metal pole in the center of the slate. Some bridges did well; some did not. But the best bridge of all was the staff's bridge. Their bridge didn't break; not one piece. They put four cinder blocks on it. All of the weights were on the slate. Tora! Tora! Tora! (Tora means surprise in Japanese.) The staff revealed that they put rebar in there that reinforced the bridge. That was a HUGE surprise!

Later that night, my squad went out for some Cold Stone ice cream. The ice cream was delicious!

Saturday, July 26, 2008

Today was a sad farewell for all of us. Everybody went into vehicles, at different times though because only so many could fit in the vans and also some kids had morning flights. We may or may not see each other again, but I hope we do.

Fortunately the staff gave us email addresses and phone numbers but for each squad. This long event has made one of the greatest impacts on me to make my future dreams come true. I recommend everybody for this camp, even if they do not wish to join the service.

My name is Michael Larson and I am going to join the Navy Seabees!

I would like to personally thank Mr. Chris Turletes for being my middleman. He's the one that really made all of this happen. But, of course, not without Mrs. Erin Ingersoll who granted my wish to go. Once again, I'd like to thank them a bevy of 'thank you's'.

Newsletter Sponsorship

Sponsorship opportunities are available for the North Winds monthly newsletter. All sponsors will have their name and logo on the front page of the Newsletter and up to a two page flyer attached to the North Winds. New for 2008 all sponsors will be given five minutes at the monthly luncheon to pitch their firm.

The North Winds Newsletter welcomes articles of interest and photos for the Newsletter. Please submit articles and photos with captions

concerning SAME activities to the editor by the 20th of each month.

The Anchorage Post is accepting nominations from our general and sustaining membership to be the Anchorage SAME Post's representative to the Anchorage Engineer of the Year honorarium for 2008. To be nominated a candidate should have made recent contributions to the Anchorage SAME Post, have a history of contribution to SAME National, and the local engineering community. Additionally our candidate should be able to demonstrate community involvement. Serving the nation as an engineer is a plus. Please sent nominee names to Skip at: skip.koch@westonsolutions.com or call Skip at (907) 276-6610. **Nominations are due not later than 17 October 2008.**

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