

# ENGINEERS CLUB OF THE WEST VALLEY

DECEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

[www.engineersaz.com](http://www.engineersaz.com)

The Engineers Club is a social organization which meets regularly for lunch with a speaker on a technical topic. Spouses are invited and many attend regularly. Short field trips are occasionally scheduled. Membership is open to anyone who has worked in or had close ties to the engineering or scientific fields. Meetings are held at 11:30am on the first Friday of each month, October through June, at Briarwood Country Club, 135th and Meeker in Sun City West, Arizona.

Visitors are always welcome -- just call Reservations at (623)546-9112 to let us know you are coming.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

### DECEMBER 4 (THURS) PROGRAM



#### Coal Gasification and CO2 Sequestration

*Don Porter, PhD Member of the Engineers Club*

The Dakota Gasification Company (DGC) of Beulah, ND is one of two Lurgi Process low rank coal gasification plants in the world, the other being in South Africa. Invented in pre-war Germany and used by the Nazis, the process is still the only one producing commercial large volumes of synthetic natural gas and liquid petroleum products.

DGC also has the largest CO2 sequestration installation in North America (and, we think, in the world) as far as we know. Helping to keep older oil wells productive, it currently sequesters about 160 million cubic feet of CO2 per day deep in underground oil wells.

The presentation will discuss these intertwined technologies with some thoughts about their future.

Don was featured in the Member Spotlight column in the May issue of this newsletter. He earned his PhD in Engineering from Stanford and subsequently held teaching and consulting assignments. He has held the CEO position of several companies over the course of his career and currently serves on the boards of the Dakota Gasification Co and also Steffes Manufacturing Co.

### NOTES FROM...

President Keith Morrow



#### Some final thoughts

I appreciate the privilege of fulfilling the role of President of the Engineers Club of the West Valley for the year 2008. Lots of enjoyment has come from the company of our Board and their active participation at our monthly meetings. Their collective efforts have made the President's job much easier and rewarding. One would have to travel far to find a more dedicated and competent assemblage.

One of the fun things that I in particular have enjoyed is acting as master-of-ceremony for our monthly luncheons. Allowing the luncheon servers to serve food as it was ready, made our programs flow much more naturally, while it eliminated stress on the MC as long as he did not mind interrupting and continuing later on whatever was underway. Particularly enjoyable was the participation of New Members, Guests and their Sponsors when they told about themselves when they were introduced.

We have an arrangement wherein the Past President is a member of the Board whose function is to assist the incoming President throughout his year in office. Bill Harrison is averse to platitudes so I will simply say one could not ask for better support than I have had from him.

It is difficult to recognize other individuals, on the board, to whom we owe so much as it might appear as favoritism to some. Besides it would be a tremendous job listing what they accomplish. Instead, I invite you to note those you come in contact with when we are emailed or phoned, as we pay for our lunches, as we get our nametags, as we pay our annual dues, and we listen to our speaker. And if you get there early enough you will see them help set up the room and speaker's equipment. And note too those you see directing things at our tours. Realize that this is just what you see on the surface and know that they are busy throughout the month getting ready for each event.

Finally, I would like to recognize our illustrious members and guests who ask such insightful questions at the end of talks. Those questions often elicit considerable more information and add immensely to our knowledge and enjoyment.

For me this year has been quite memorable and I sincerely feel privileged to have been a part of it.

### JANUARY 9 PROGRAM



#### A New Approach to Medical Research through Translational Genomics

*Michael L. Bassoff, President T-Gen Foundation*

Michael Bassoff is President of the Translational Genomics Research Foundation which is a nationally based charitable organization that supports the work of the Translational Genomics Research Institute (T-Gen) and its many programs. He had previously served as President of the Foundation of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). And prior to his tenure at UMDNJ, he served the University of Arizona Health Services Center for more than 16 years.

Translational Genomics Research refers to the study of the genomic structure of the human body with the objective of understanding the genetic cause of disease so as to translate this information into new diagnostic tests and therapeutics. Thanks to the mapping of the human genome, clinical practice is shifting from treatment based on symptoms to treatment based on each person's unique genetic make-up.

### FEBRUARY 6 2009

#### New Automotive Developments

Max E. Rumbaugh, Jr, Executive VP Emeritus SAE Int'l

## 2008 OFFICERS

President	Keith Morrow	546-3080
Vice President	Fred Scheske	556-2892
Secretary	Sally Morrow	546-3080
Treasurer	Don Block	546-0557

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Programs	Fred Scheske	556-2892
Membership	Bob Latvalla	546-7801
Membership	Bill Lee	977-1818
<b>Reservations</b>	<b>Gene Comstock</b>	<b>546-9112</b>
Luncheons	Hal Clemett	546-4941
Scholarship	Geraldine Montag	546-7963
Scholarship	Fred Berkenkamp	214-7757
Scholarship	Rutheloise Borchardt	933-2307
Member at Large	Dave Wittchen	544-8945
Newsletter	Jim & Pat Ardis	362-1013
Publicity	Keith Morrow	546-3080
Field Trips	Jerry Miller	214-2642
Field Trips	Dave Whitehouse	544-0942
Past President	Bill Harrison	546-4943

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

*An occasional series of articles by Fred Scheske focusing on the engineering careers of Club members.*

Richard (Dick) Faytinger was born and schooled in the small Nebraska town of David City. In high school he found a love for mathematics and a teacher advised him to seek an engineering career. That sounded good to him. Tinkering with science projects was always of great interest to Dick. He and a high school friend built a personal communication system, stringing wires on utility poles between their homes.

Studying at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, he was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in 1941. He immediately was hired by General Electric Corporation and moved to Schenectady, New York. Sales work was appealing and he continued in that work for three years. In 1944 Dick was transferred to the Manhattan Project in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Given high security clearance, he worked with the US Corps of Engineers on the atomic bomb project. The project proved to be most interesting and was the highlight of his engineering career. At the end of WWII he was transferred to Pittsburgh, PA by GE, again working in sales engineering. He later became District Manager, Industrial Sales Division for GE, residing in Pittsburgh for 45 years. Dick retired from GE in 1985 after 44 years of service.

Dick and wife Lolly moved to Sun City West in 1993. Lolly deceased in 2007. They were married for 65 years. Dick has been a member of the Engineers Club for 15 years and has served as president and has held other board positions as well for our group.

## TREASURER'S REPORT 10-31-2008

General Fund Balance:	\$3,522.20
Scholarship Fund Balance:	\$1,473.23

## LUNCHEON MENUS

**December 4:** Yankee Pot Roast with Natural Gravy, Boiled Red Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Beverages and Vanilla Ice Cream. (**Entrée Option: Fruit Plate**)

**January 9:** Marinated London Broil with Bruchetta Topping, Parmesan Crusted Potatoes, Salad, Rolls, Beverages, Peppermint Ice Cream. (**Entrée Option: Fruit Plate**)

## RESERVATION POLICY

The cost of the monthly luncheon is \$16.50 per person. The reservation deadline is 6PM Monday before the meeting.

Late reservations cannot be guaranteed the regular meal.

Call Gene Comstock if you cannot keep your reservation.

A fee of \$10 will be charged for "no-shows."

Please have cash or make out your check in advance.

**RESERVATIONS Gene Comstock (623)546-9112**

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

2009 dues of \$20 are now being accepted at the membership table before meetings or by mail to the Treasurer

**Don Block**

**13425 W Caraway Dr  
Sun City West AZ 85375**

## FIELD TRIPS

### Postal Distribution Center

48th Street & Van Buren

Friday, January 16, 2009 at 4:00 PM

### Package Distribution Center

620 N 47th Ave

Friday, January 30, 2009 at 10:00 AM

**Call Dave Whitehouse 623-362-0942**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Ronald Aron, William Miller, Peter Rauen, Daniel St John and F James Wellman

**Current club membership is 174**



Dr. Paul Westerhoff receives a Certificate of Appreciation for his October presentation on Pharmaceuticals in drinking water.