



Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists

Rocks Above the Clouds, A Hiker's and Climber's Guide to Colorado Mountain Geology

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United States Geological Survey

Preface

What do geologists see when they wander through mountains? Can they read the rocks and immediately understand the building of continents, the slow grinding down of rocks, and the inexorable progression of evolution?

If only it were that easy. Scientific knowledge might produce some answers, but it also results in additional questions. And that is the way it should be. Life and the wonderful world around us would be too simple and mundane if a little book learning and a few years of experience enabled us to comprehend fully the magnificent diversity of our environment. Gaining knowledge of the geology will help you understand some of what you find in the mountain environment, but it will also make you aware that there is always another mystery lurking around the next ridge or beyond the pass.

We invite you to keep an open mind as you trudge up that seemingly endless slope of loose blocks. Did these blocks fall from the cliff directly above, or were they deposited by a retreating glacier during the Pleistocene Ice Age? When you curse the knee-deep mire in the valley bottom, are you wallowing in muck that backed up behind a landslide? When the ground changes from firm, well-drained sand and gravel to loose, slippery clay, have you crossed over from soil underlain by sandstone to soil underlain by shale?

These are just a few of the questions that a geologically inclined adventurer might ask. Sometimes a little knowledge of geology can ease your way and maybe even help you avoid an awkward or dangerous situation. Knowing something about different rock types might enable you to pick a route that avoids loose rock. Knowing that a particular rock surface will feel like grease with just a little water might encourage you to forego that siesta on the summit and head down before the

MEETING DATE

Thursday
May 13TH, 2010

TIME

5:45 p.m. Social Hour
6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Presentation

LOCATION

Berthoud Hall,
Colorado School of
Mines
1516 Illinois St.
Golden, Co 80401
Room 205
See Map Below

COST

\$25 Members
\$27 Non-members

RESERVATIONS

meetings@aegrms.org
or
WWW.AEGRMS.ORG

**BY NOON,
TUESDAY
May 11TH**

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afternoon thunderstorm.

Keep your eyes and your mind open in the mountains. Doing so will increase your enjoyment as well as enhance your chances of survival. We promise you will notice things you once took for granted.

New Newsletter Editor

Dave Bernard has answered the call to be the new newsletter editor and will be taking over starting with the first fall newsletter! Thanks Dave.

Ed Friend

CGS Job Opening

The Colorado Geological Survey has an opening for a senior level geologist (Physical Science Researcher/Scientist III) with expertise in petroleum and natural gas exploration, and CO₂ Sequestration science.

The application deadline has been extended to **May 7, 2010**

The salary note was previously incorrect: Initial salary depends on job skill and experience; it does not necessarily start at the bottom of the salary range.

The Colorado Geological Survey has an opening for a senior level geologist (Physical Science Researcher/Scientist III) with expertise in petroleum and natural gas exploration, and CO₂ Sequestration science.

Minimum requirements are a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in geology, petroleum geology, or other closely related geoscience subject area and four years of experience in petroleum and natural gas exploration. Experience should include project management and report writing. Graduate-level coursework in geology including petroleum, natural gas, and/or geologic CO₂ sequestration is highly desirable, as well as experience in CO₂ Sequestration research, studies, or applications.

Applications must be submitted by May 7, 2010. You must be a resident of Colorado.

A detailed description of the duties and requirements of the position and how to apply can be found at the following website:

<http://www.gssa.state.co.us/announce/Job%20Announcements.nsf/54c67aad0c28fbac87257448005063b7/6a6b6f184b118e96872576e9005d8ae7?OpenDocument>

Words from the Chair – AEG Midyear BOD Update

Rocky Mountain Section,

I attended the AEG Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting in St. Louis on May 1-2. Below are some items that may be of interest to you:

Meetings

- A workshop to introduce the AEG Licensure Committee and discuss licensure and lobbying topics will be held at the 2010 Annual Meeting in Charleston on Thursday September 23 from 8:00 until 10:00 a.m.
- A kickoff symposium for Engineering Geologist of the Future (formerly the Education Committee) will be held at the 2010 Annual Meeting to discuss educational goals for current and future students.
- Alaska Section Chair Paul Metz is donating free roundtrip airfare to Anchorage from anywhere that Alaskan Airlines flies. The free ticket must be used in September 2011 (which is coincidentally when the Annual Meeting will be hosted in Anchorage). The ticket will be raffled off at the 2010 Annual Meeting. Everyone who attends the 2010 Annual Meeting is eligible to win.
- AEG is soliciting proposals for the 2014 Annual Meeting.

Students

- Student volunteers are still needed for the 2010 Annual Meeting in Charleston. Students who volunteer to work 8 hours receive complimentary registration.
- Beginning next year AEG national dues for Student Members will be free. Student Members will no longer receive paper copies of publications, but they will be able to access all publications (E&EG and the News) electronically.
- The Student and Young Professionals Support Committee had developed a Facebook page named “New Geologist”.
- Applications for AEG Foundation Scholarships can be found online and will be due February 1.

Miscellaneous

- Engineering and Environmental Geoscience Journal will be distributed electronically starting with the May 2010 issue. You will need your member username and password to access the journal. You should be receiving an email reminder with your username/password information and a link to the journal will also be distributed via email.
- AEG and ASCE both agreed to abolish the previous version of the Joint Task Force on Areas of Practice document. A new document will be drafted based on a bodies of knowledge principle. AIPG was content with the previous version of the document and will not be participating in the new draft.

It has been a pleasure serving as the Rocky Mountain Section Chair this past year. Have a great summer and hopefully many of you will be able to attend Family Night this month.

Adam Prochaska

Board of Directors

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