

The Official

AEG Nisqually Chapter Newsletter

October Meeting Details

Tuesday, October 3rd

Location: 3 Magnets Brewing

600 Franklin St. SE

Olympia, WA

6:00 pm Social

7:00 Presentation

Dinner: On your own

\$10 Donation (Member)

\$15 Donation (Non-Member)

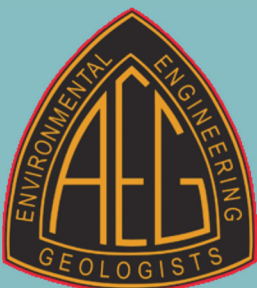
Students FREE with RSVP

Please RSVP by 4 pm Friday,
September 29th at: [http://
www.brownpapertickets.com/
event/3094328](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3094328)

There is a \$2 surcharge for
those who do not reserve by
the deadline

Upcoming Meetings:

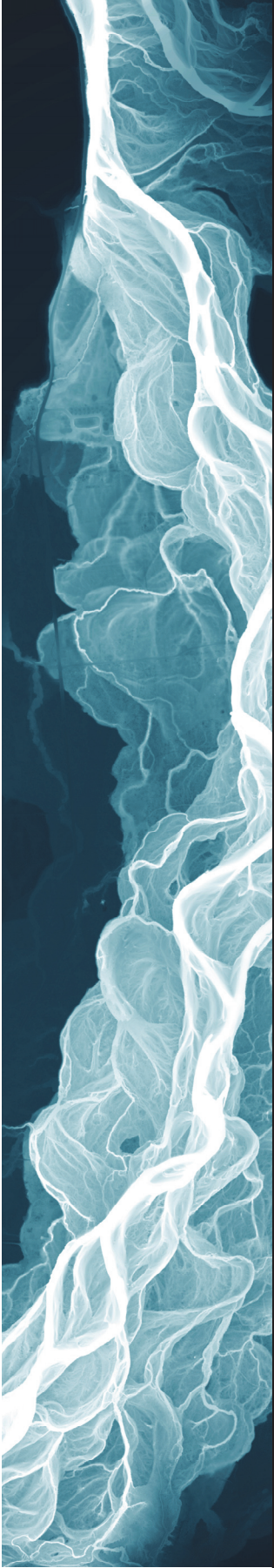
Nov	7 th	Tom Badger
Feb	6 th	TBD
Mar	6 th	TBD
Apr	3 rd	TBD



Emergency Response to a Rockslide on BNSF Snowshed #4, Stampede Pass, WA

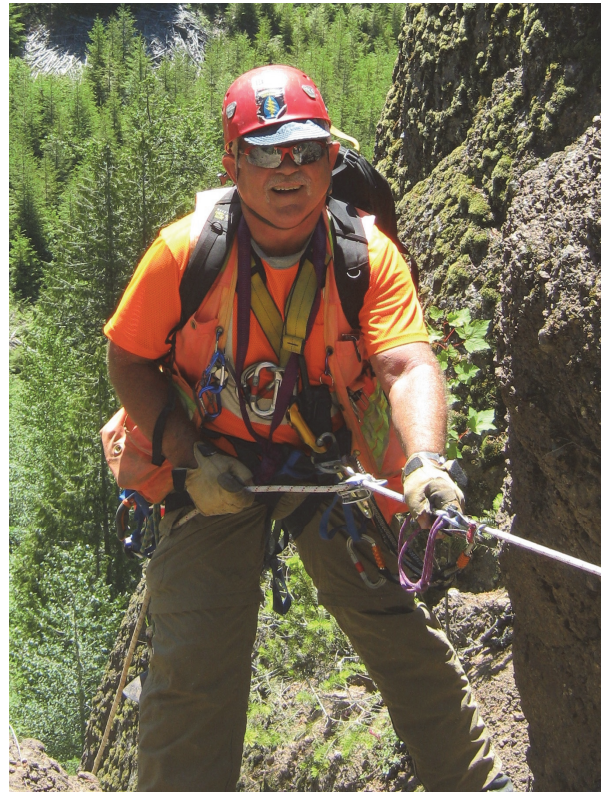
One of BNSF's primary freight lines cross the Cascade Range in Washington State at Stampede Pass. On November 27, 2015, a large rockslide occurred above the east portal of Tunnel #4, at MP49.4 within the Stampede Subdivision. Approximately 50 cubic yards of rock debris hit and penetrated the snowshed roof, breaking some of the timber set members, and fouled the track. Rock debris was spotted by the BNSF track inspector and traffic was stopped, averting a derailment. BNSF requested that McMillen Jacobs Associates mobilize to the site to evaluate the damaged snowshed and rockslope conditions. We inspected the structural integrity of the snowshed and worked closely with BNSF maintenance-of-way personnel to safely remove a large boulder lodged in the roof over the tracks. We oversaw rock scaling above the snowshed to establish safe working conditions for BNSF staff and rail traffic. After completion of the initial rock scaling, BNSF constructed a temporary roof cover over the open holes. Rail traffic was restored within 72 hours of the incident. When conditions improved in 2016, authors directed additional rock scaling during live track windows. Once scaling was completed, we characterized the existing rockslope conditions using rope access techniques to evaluate geologic kinematic stability and rockfall characteristics. Based on the results, we produced conceptual designs for mitigation measures, including rock anchors and wire mesh, and then provided construction management during final repair of the snowshed. Presently, we are designing a rockfall deflection shed above the Snowshed #4 (snowshed) based on the rockfall characteristics.





Bio: William Gates

Dr. Gates is retired Army Special Forces (Green Beret) officer and is a Principal with McMillen Jacobs Associates as a Rock Engineer specializing in geotechnical, rock engineering, blasting and hydrogeology with more than 50 years of practical, hands-on experience dealing with various engineering geology and geotechnical problems worldwide. He is a registered professional engineer and geologist in several western states. He has completed numerous rock engineering, emergency rock fall and blasting projects with railroad industry.



Message from the Chair

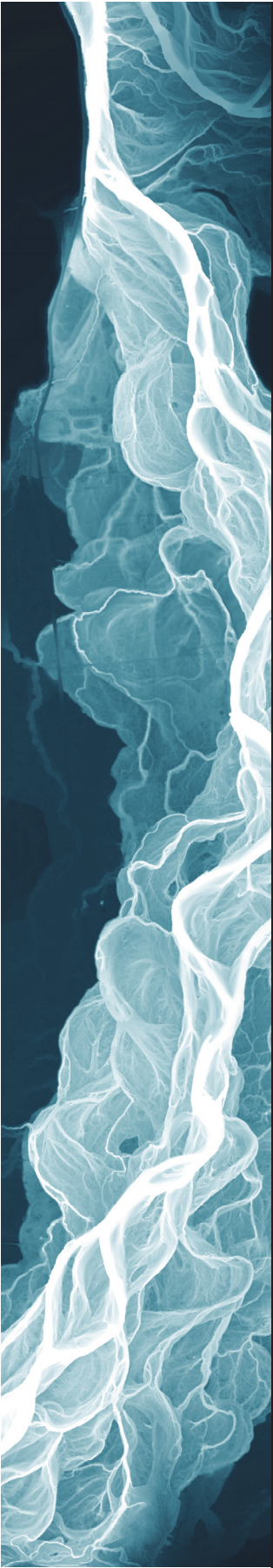
Welcome to the second Nisqually Chapter newsletter! Thanks to all that attended our September meeting, attendance was better than we anticipated. We're still evaluating options for meeting locations, there will be some discussion about the venue and meeting format at our October meeting. Speaking of the October meeting, mark your calendars, it will be here sooner than you think. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3rd at 3 Magnets Brewing.

As I said in the last newsletter, we're just getting started. Spread the word, please tell your coworkers and colleagues about AEG and invite them to the meetings; the more, the merrier. If we need to move to a bigger venue, we'll find one. Also, if you see things that we could do better, we certainly are open to new ideas. If you have any suggestions, feel free to drop me an email (mpiechowski@robinson-noble.com).

As a final note, we're looking for pictures that we can use in a slideshow prior to the start of the meeting. If you can provide some interesting photos of sites, challenging situations, interesting processes, or cool old historical pictures, we'd like to put them into a slideshow.

Thanks,

Mike Piechowski
AEG Nisqually Chapter Chair



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Mike Piechowski
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MPiechowski@robinson-noble.com



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Chair:
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FishM@wsdot.wa.gov



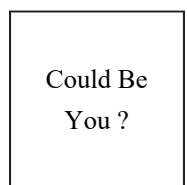
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The AEG Nisqually Chapter Newsletter

The Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG) contributes to its members' professional success and the public welfare by providing leadership, advocacy, and applied research in environmental and engineering geology. AEG's values are based on the belief that its members have a responsibility to assume stewardship over their fields of expertise. AEG is the acknowledged international leader in environmental and engineering geology, and is greatly respected for its stewardship of the profession.

AEG NISQUALLY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER is published monthly from September through April. Subscriptions are for members of AEG affiliated with the Nisqually Chapter or other Chapters, and other interested people. E-mail subscriptions are free.

