



PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS OF COLORADO

PIKES PEAK CHAPTER APRIL 2008 NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 1st, CDOT's Bridge Conditions and Needs
 - Noon meeting @ Antler's Grille
 - \$15/person
 - RSVP Sarah Hunke at shunke@csu.org or 668-8622
- April 22nd, Earth Day
- May 6th, Joint Meeting w/ PEC Southern Chapter
 - Fort Carson, Tour a Tank
 - More details to come

EARTH DAY – On Saturday, April 22, citizens are invited to an Earth Day / Arbor Day grand celebration at the Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site (3202 Chambers Way) and the Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center (1805 N. 30th St.). Neither of these events are new to Colorado Springs, but for the first time they will be celebrated on the same day. This is not a PEC sponsored event. For more information, visit: <http://www.springsgov.com/Calendar/Calendar.asp?EventID=995>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – CONNIE H. KING, ESQ., P.E.

I was recently in a meeting during which the discussion turned to a hearing scheduled in the year 2015. The guys on either side of me looked at each other and simultaneously said "That's not my problem!" Then I realized – it's probably not my problem either. I'd like to think we would have solved all of Colorado's water quality problems before 2015, but realistically I guess we may leave a few challenges for someone else to deal with.

I started my career as an environmental engineer in 1977, the year that Congress passed the Clean Water Act. Although one of the managers for whom I worked early in my career told me, "This environmental stuff is just a flash in the pan!" – fortunately for me and my colleagues, he was wrong. I've had very interesting work for the last 31 years, first as an environmental engineer, and later as an environmental attorney. I hope all of you enjoy your careers as much as I continue to enjoy mine!

-Connie

ENGINEER JOKE OF THE MONTH:

There was an engineer who had an exceptional gift for fixing all things mechanical. After serving his company loyally for over 30 years, he happily retired. Several years later the company contacted him regarding a seemingly impossible problem they were having with one of their multi-million dollar machines.

They had tried everything and everyone else to get the machine to work but to no avail. In desperation, they called on the retired engineer who has solved so many of their problems in the past.

The engineer reluctantly took the challenge. He spent a day studying the huge machine. At the end of the day, he marked a small "x" in chalk on a particular component of the machine and stated, "This is where your problem is." The part was replaced and the machine worked perfectly again. The company received a bill for \$50,000 from the engineer for this service. They demanded an itemized accounting of his charges.

The engineer responded briefly:

- One chalk mark \$1
- Knowing where to put it \$49,999

It was paid in full and the engineer retired again in peace.

