



## Special points of interest:

- NEW SEAMass Delegate for NCSEA chosen – Jack Wood takes on 3 year commitment.
- NEW BSA A/E Network Committee established.
- NEW BASE committee established to review those designing engineered lumber by non-engineers.
- Upcoming Events.

## Inside this issue:

SEERP Committee 2  
Update

Testing the Proposed Ch. 34  
Buildings 2

BSA A/E Network 3  
Committee

BASE Established 3  
New Committee

Upcoming Events 4

## SEAMass Firsts

SEAMass is off and running; it began with 55 members in May 2006, it now has 125 members.

Our First Meeting in September 2006 attracted 70 people from the structural engineering community. We are planning 3 meetings in the spring of 2007 to include **Planning and Procedures for Post-Disaster Structural Evaluations**; a forum meeting on **Chapter 34 (existing buildings)** of the Mass. Bldg. Code; and our First Annual Meeting to include this year's **AISC T.R. Higgins recipient, Mr. R. Shankar Nair** (see Upcoming Events)

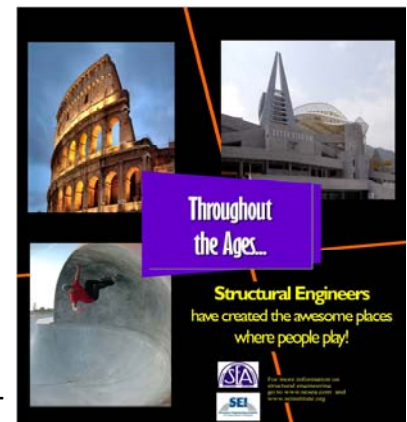
SEAMass is indebted to BASE for its creation including financial assistance and its numerous volunteer hours from its members that made SEAMass possible - to provide Massachusetts structural engineers with *an organization for structural engineers and by structural engineers.*

SEAMass is partnering with other organizations in an effort to allow SEAMass members benefits that would not be available otherwise without additional memberships to numerous organizations. AISC has extended privileges to offer SEAMass members a membership rate for their events on an event by event basis. We are also partnering with other SEAs (especially in NE where technical seminars can be easily attended) to offer their technical meetings to SEAMass members at member rates.

It is SEAMass' intent to provide needed technical information transfer among the structural engineers in our community. This First Newsletter is an attempt to provide some information to members of what is to come. If you would like to become involved with SEAMass beyond attending meetings, please contact Cynthia Chabot, President at [President@SEAMass.org](mailto:President@SEAMass.org) or phone at (781) 665-7110. You may also go to the website at [www.seamass.org](http://www.seamass.org) for more contacts and information.

## SEAMass Delegate to NCSEA

SEAMass selected a new NCSEA delegate in September to be the ears and voice for SEAMass to NCSEA - Jack Wood of Veitas and Veitas will serve in that role for 3 years, attending the NCSEA Annual Meeting in the Fall. Jack is the primary delegate and Fred Cowen is the alternate delegate. Fred has faithfully served that role since 1997, the year Massachusetts became a member organization to NCSEA (as BASE prior to SEAMass). We are grateful to Fred for his service as well as his generous offer to assist the new delegate in his new duties. Fred will accompany Jack at this year's NCSEA's 15th Annual Conference in Pennsylvania October 11-13, 2007.



NCSEA Advocacy Committee 2007 Poster geared to high school students (photo courtesy of NCSEA Advocacy Committee)

**Other Emergency Management Agency Links:**

**MEMA—Mass. Emerg. Management Agcy**  
[www.state.ma.us/mema](http://www.state.ma.us/mema)

**FEMA—Federal Emerg. Management Agcy.**  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

## SEERP Committee Update

Jeffrey Struble of Struble Engineering is chair of the Structural Engineering Emergency Response (SEERP) Committee. Through the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations (NCSEA), coordinated by the national SEERP committee, SEAMass will host a training seminar for performing post-disaster building safety assessments as part of its continued effort to develop a structural engineering emergency response plan for Massachusetts.

Rapid and effective structural safety assessment of buildings after a widespread disaster is a difficult and daunting task. One of the immediate needs facing public officials who regulate building safety is to determine the extent of building damage and to communicate to the public if buildings are safe to re-occupy and use. These efforts can take weeks, even months, to complete as building departments can be overwhelmed with this workload and may not have readily available specialized training.

In response to damaging windstorms and hurricanes, the Applied Technology Council (ATC) has recently published guidelines on the safety evaluation of buildings after windstorms and floods (ATC-45). This guideline is patterned after the widely used standard for post-earthquake safety evaluation of buildings (ATC-20). Together, these ATC-20/45 standards provide systematic procedures for conducting post-disaster building safety evaluations and are the de-facto technical standard used throughout the United States. The result of the ATC-20/45 safety evaluation is a Red, Yellow, or Green building placard that informs the building tenant, owner, and general public on the relative safety of the damaged building.

A one day seminar will be conducted to train structural engineers and other professionals in the methodology of emergency building assessment that is widely used by Emergency Management Authorities

(EMAs). This 6 hour seminar will take place April 5 at the Marriott Hotel in Newton. See events for details on registration. There are only 100 available seats; this event will be offered to public officials and other professional interested community interests as well as structural engineers, so please register early if you wish to attend. The seminar will provide 6 PDHs on completion.



**1872 Barney Mausoleum, Springfield, MA. Structural engineering restoration by CBI Consulting, Boston, MA (photo courtesy of CBI Consulting)**



**Danversport Bakery and Danversport Pizza Factory at the corner of Bates and Water Streets destroyed in November 22, 2006 explosion in Danvers, Massachusetts. (photo courtesy of Danvers Building Department)**

## Testing the Proposed Chapter 34 - Existing Buildings

Volunteers within the Massachusetts structural engineering community are sought to test the proposed Chapter 34 on existing buildings for the 7th Edition of the Mass. State Bldg. Code. At the request of the Joint LAC/SAC Committee (Loads Advisory Committee and the Seismic Advisory Committee of the Board of Building Regulations and Standards) on Chapter 34, Richard Crosswell is asking members of the Mas-

sachusetts structural engineering community to "Test Drive" the structural provisions of the proposed new Chapter 34 on existing buildings that is to be incorporated into the 7th edition of the State Building Code. The effort is to compare the results of the proposed Chapter 34 with those of an existing building on which you have already performed a design using the current provisions of Chapter 34 in the 6th edition

of the State Building Code. Feed-back from the structural engineers who will be using these provisions is needed.

If you would like more information on testing Ch. 34, contact Richard Crosswell at

[rcrosswell@smma.com](mailto:rcrosswell@smma.com).

## BSA A/E Network Committee

The Boston Society of Architects Architects/Engineers (BSA A/E) Network met for the first time on January 8, 2007. It is meant to be a way for both architects and engineers to share information. The committee is lead by Nick Ferzanza, PE, LEED, of The

Maricor Group NE. The meeting was attended by mechanicals, air quality, GREEN, electrical, lighting people and architects.

Representing SEAMass are Fred Cowen and Ed Moll – Fred attended the Meeting

on Jan 8. Also attending the meeting from the SE community include Arthur LeBrasseur of LeBrasseur Engineering, Johnathan Buell, Foley & Buell, and Clem McCary of Engineers Design Group.



Disney World Sculpture Structural engineering by CA Pretzer, Cranston, RI (photo courtesy of CA Pretzer)

## BASE Establishes New Committee

BASE (Boston Association of Structural Engineers) voted to establish a new committee to look into the Design of Engineered Lumber. The committee will be chaired by Val Prest from Goldsmith, Prest & Ringwall, Inc.

Prest suggested this new committee be formed due to the increased number of engineered wood providers (e.g., lumber yards) to residential construction contractors supplying stamped engineered documents for the purposes of satisfying the building permit and/or Building Commissioner's

request. These 'engineered documents' contain extensive disclaimers from the SER because the SER did not generate the loads nor design the supporting structure for these design elements. One member at the meeting relayed his experience saying that on one project he became involved with the engineered beam was provided by a lumber yard with attached 'design documents' that stated the column was designed for bearing only – this resulting column was shown as a 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" column - in reality, the 20 foot column

needed to be 5 1/2" x 5 1/2".

The committee will study the issues and bring forth suggestions to BASE for possible actions.

If your firm is not a member of BASE but is eligible, contact any one of the officer's of BASE for information about becoming a member. You may find information about BASE and its current officers at <http://b-ase.org/>.

BASE held its last meeting January 17, 2007. BASE is the Business forum of SEAMass – all business member firm representatives are members of SEAMass.

**“ ‘design documents’ that stated the column was designed for bearing only ...in reality, the 20 foot column needed to be 5 1/2” x 5 1/2” ”**

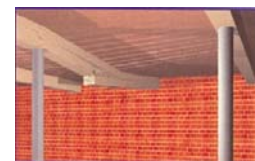
## SEAMass Newsletter

SEAMass' Newsletter is the latest work in trying to get information to our members. The Newsletter will provide events and information about what the organization and our members are doing.

Initially, we hope to provide a quarterly newsletter. Once we have more people to help put the Newsletter together, we can provide more content more often.

We are looking for people who may be able to

help with the Newsletter. Help would include Newsletter content and help with the layout. If you have the ability to help out, email [Admin@SEAMass.org](mailto:Admin@SEAMass.org).



**Epoxy Repair of Timber Framing by Val Prest**  
Article can be downloaded from <http://gpr-inc.com/Articles.htm> (diagram from article reprinted here with permission from V. Prest)



**Old South Church Tower Restoration, Newburyport, MA**  
Structural restoration by Structures North, Salem, MA (photo courtesy of Structures North)

**“SEAMass is sponsoring a one-day seminar to help train engineers and other professionals in the methodology of emergency building assessment that is widely used by EMA’s.”**

**Danvers Explosion 22 Nov 2006:**  
Approximately 90 homes a half mile from the explosion were damaged. An orange tag was used to signify whether or not houses were safe to enter. (photos courtesy of Danvers Building Department)



## Upcoming Events

### March

**21** BASE Dinner Meeting

### April

**5** SEERP/ATC 20

**25** SEAMass Dinner Meeting  
Ch. 34 Forum

### May

**16** BASE Dinner Meeting

### June

**6** SEAMass Dinner Meeting  
TR Higgins Award Lecture

### Planning and Procedures for Post Disaster Structural Evaluations SEERP/ATC 20

<b>Date:</b>	4/5/07 (Thurs)	<b>Time:</b>	7:45 am – 3:30 pm
<b>Location:</b>	Marriott Hotel, 2345 Commonwealth Ave., Newton	<b>Cost:</b>	Before 3/17 \$120/\$145 M/NM Btw 3/17-3/30 \$145/\$170 M/NM
<b>Register:</b>	Email <a href="mailto:SEERP@SEAMass.org">SEERP@SEAMass.org</a>	<b>Information:</b>	Phone Jeffrey Struble at (781) 942-3845

This seminar will train structural engineers and other professionals in the methodology of emergency building assessment that is widely used by Emergency Management Authorities (EMAs). The seminar will be conducted by members of the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations (NCSEA) Structural Engineers Emergency Response (SEER) Committee.

Seminar topics will include an overview of the SEER Plan manual, structural assessment training for earthquake damaged structures and damage caused by hurricanes and explosions. As an added bonus, Danvers building officials will be on hand to comment on the seminar material from their viewpoint as coordinators of the rapid assessments performed on the many buildings damaged by the November 22, 2006 chemical plant explosion in that community.

**Ch. 34—Existing Buildings  
Forum Meeting**

**Date:** 4/25/07 (Wed)  
**Time:** 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
**Location:** Henderson House,  
99 Westcliff Road, Weston  
**Cost:** \$30M/\$40NM  
**Register:** Email Events@SEAMass.org  
**Informa-  
tion:** Phone Richard Crosswell  
at (617) 547-5400

Several individuals have tested the proposed Chapter 34—Existing Buildings for the Mass. State Building Code 7th Edition. This forum committee will discuss the changes from the 6th Edition to the 7th Edition.



**Henderson House, a stone Tudor 19th Century mansion operated by Northeastern University, is a rather appropriate venue for SEAMass to hold its meeting on Chapter 34—Existing Buildings. Just 2-3 miles from the junction of I-90 and I-95 in Weston.**

**Annual Meeting and TR Higgins  
Award Recipient**

**Date:** 6/6/07 (Wed)  
**Time:** 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
**Location:** MIT Faculty Club,  
50 Memorial Dr., 6th Fl  
Cambridge  
**FREE PARKING**  
**Cost:** \$40M/\$50NM  
**Register:** Email Events@SEAMass.org  
**Informa-  
tion:** Phone Cynthia Chabot  
at (781) 665-7110

The First Annual Meeting will include the TR Higgins Award Recipient, Mr. R. Shankar Nair as well as SEAMass Business including the 2007-2008 officer election.

Mr. Nair, a principal and senior vice president with Teng & Associates in Chicago, Inc. is being honored by AISC for his paper on 'Stability and Analysis Provisions of the 2005 AISC Specification for Steel Buildings.' His paper presents clear and concise options available for dealing with stability and second order analysis as found in the 2005 AISC Specification for Structural Steel Buildings. It highlights the relationship between the two simplified methods available in the body of the Specification and the detailed Direct Analysis Method presented in the Specification Appendix.

**STRUCTURAL  
ENGINEERS  
ASSOCIATION OF  
MASSACHUSETTS**

The Engineering Center  
One Walnut Street  
Boston, MA 02108-3616  
(617) 227-5551

We're on the Web!  
SEAMass.org

The Structural Engineers Association of Massachusetts (SEAMass) is a non-profit organization established to pursue the common interests of practicing structural engineers and others sharing an interest in the activities of structural engineers. Members are individuals who are licensed professional engineers, licensed professional structural engineers, engineers in training, students pursuing a degree towards structural engineering and individuals sharing an interest in the activities of SEAMass.

The Association is a Member Organization of the National Council Structural Engineers Associations (NCSEA).

*Structural engineering is the science and art of designing and making, with economy and elegance, buildings, bridges, frameworks and other similar structures so that they can safely resist the forces to which they may be subjected.*



**SEAMass**