

AISC Web Site Upgrades Now Underway

By Steven Hamburg

As the new AISC Software/Electronic Communication Director, one of my responsibilities is to manage the AISC web site. I reported to work on Monday, March 2nd, cracked my knuckles, sat back in my chair and visited the AISC web site. I proceeded through the site as whim would take me. After about 20 minutes, I realized just how massive an undertaking it would be to manage the AISC web site.

Rather than advertising the extensive changes that will be effective as of April 15th, I'll instead give you a brief overview of what the site has to offer. I have decided to take this approach for two reasons. First, anyone who has visited the site before April 15th will quickly notice the wide variety of changes that have been implemented to the AISC web site. And second, anyone who has not visited the web site before April 15th really will not care to know all of the changes that have been made to the web site.

So, what am I hoping this article will accomplish? I am hoping that after you read this article, you will be inspired to visit the web site immediately and frequently, as well as motivated to encourage your colleagues, friends, and any one else to do the same.

Poke around all of the different areas of the site and formulate your own opinions regarding the site. Ask yourself the following questions:

1. Do I like this web site?
2. Does the web site have room for improvement?
3. What about the web site disappointed me?
4. What really impressed me?
5. Does the web site serve a purpose?
6. Did I learn anything new about AISC?
7. Did I benefit from visiting the web site?

If, after visiting the web site, you have any comments, suggestions, or if you have found spelling errors or have experienced any type of difficulties while visiting the AISC web site,

please email this information to me at hamburg@aiscmail.com.

The AISC web site contains an enormous amount of useful information. Below I have listed each of the main areas contained in the web site along with an in-depth description of what it has to offer its visitors. Please refer to the list below; I am very confident that you will be able to find at least one useful item in the AISC web site.

• WEB SITE REGISTRATION

To be honest, it may appear that registration is of no benefit to you. However, this is not true. AISC keeps track of all registrations and uses them to determine which information is most useful to visitors. AISC can then concentrate on providing additional useful information in these areas. Likewise, if certain portions of the site are not being visited, AISC can work on improving those areas. Don't worry, AISC asks you to register only once (i.e., you will never have to register on the AISC web site again!)

• BRAIN BENDER

The Brain Bender is a brain teaser contest posted bi-weekly on the AISC web site. All visitors of the AISC web site are encouraged to take a stab at the monthly brain bender. All answers to the specific brain teaser should be emailed to me at hamburg@aiscmail.com. All people emailing correct responses will be entered in a drawing for an interesting prize. Please check out the Brain Bender section on the web site for more information.

• PUBLICATIONS

This area of the AISC web site is devoted to all publications developed by AISC. This portion of the web site provides two main services to its visitors. First, it allows all visitors to perform keyword searches on all AISC publications (e.g., AISC Engineering Journal, Modern Steel Construction, Steel Interchange, etc.), as well as throughout the entire AISC catalog of publications. And second, it allows visitors to purchase AISC publications on-line.

• MODERN STEEL CONSTRUCTION

This area contains information for both readers and prospective advertis-

ers. For readers, this area of the site contains a searchable index of articles published between 1980 and 1995. For advertisers, a complete media kit is available, including advertising rates and an editorial calendar.

• FABRICATOR INFORMATION

All information pertaining to fabricators is contained in this portion of the AISC web site. Information provided in this area of the web site includes: Fabricator Association Presidents, AISC Quality Certified Fabricators, information concerning AISC Certification, information concerning how fabricators may become an AISC Active Member and access to a sophisticated online AISC Active Member directory.

• ENGINEERING & RESEARCH

This portion of the AISC web site briefly describes the role of AISC's Engineering and Research Department. This area is currently being revamped and should contain much more information by mid-June.

• MEMBERSHIP

The AISC web site contains extensive information concerning AISC membership, including costs and benefits. Applications for AISC membership can be filled out on-line and automatically sent to AISC.

• NATIONAL STEEL BRIDGE ALLIANCE

This portion of the AISC web site is devoted to bridges and the National Steel Bridge Alliance (NSBA). It includes: NSBA membership information, upcoming NSBA events, NSBA regional groups, services the NSBA has to offer, NSBA fabricators and producer members, NSBA publications and information regarding the 1998 Prize Bridge Competition.

• AISC CONTACT INFORMATION

The AISC web site provides its visitors with email addresses for AISC staff members. The section is organized both alphabetically and by department.

• AISC SEARCH ENGINE

In the event that a visitor is unable to find a particular piece of information being sought on the AISC web site, the web site is equipped with an internal search engine. This feature allows

all visitors to enter specific topics/keywords and perform an extensive search throughout the contents of the entire AISC web site. Through the use of an extensive database, this provides the visitor the capability of receiving a complete listing of all web pages within the AISC web site pertaining to the specific topics/keywords entered in the search.

I hope you visit the AISC web site again (or for the very first time) soon! Keep in mind that these changes will not be visible until April 15th.

Errors & Omissions:

In the January listing of structural engineering software, we inadvertently left out the program FLOORVIB2 from Structural Engineers, Inc., 537 Wisteria Dr., Radford, VA 24141 (ph: 540-731-3330; fax 540-639-0713).

FLOORVIB is an expert system knowledge base which provides floor vibration tolerance evaluation of steel member supported floor systems. The procedures and tolerance criteria are from the AISC Design Guide Series 11 "Floor Vibrations Due to Human Activity." Floor systems can be evaluated for walking and rhythmic excitation, as well as suitability for supporting sensitive equipment. Data bases for hot-rolled sections and K-series joists are included. Other member properties can be input using the "built-up section" feature. The system provides on-screen advice for all required input. A complete report, showing all calculations, is provided. A copy of the the Design Guide is included with FLOORVIB2. The price is \$250 + \$10 shipping and handling.

Also, a separate phone and fax number should have been provided for Comprehensive Analytic Engineering Inc.. The correct information is as follows: phone & fax: 860/ 635-1212; phone: 860/ 635-6114.

New Books From ASCE

The American Society of Civil Engineers has recently published three new books on building design:

- **Failure Mechanism in Building Construction** details the causes and characteristics of building distress and also provides 34 case studies. Topics explored include:

shelf angles; deck drains; thermal expansion; cracking; fatigue; fracture; overstress; unstable shoring; tempered glass; tower distress; sealant reversion; glazing system leaks; masonry/plank construction; frame shortening; zipper gaskets; handrail post deformation; sloped glazing slips; and floating walls. Copies of the 116-page book cost \$36.

- **Forensic Engineering** includes 43 peer-reviewed papers presented at the First Forensic Engineering Congress. Content is divided into 12 sections: the engineer as expert witness; the Oklahoma City bombing; improving building performance through multi-hazard mitigation; near misses and narrow escapes—the moral dilemma of the designer; forensic engineering practice and the hired guns; failures and other mishaps during construction; natural disasters—risk assessment and mitigation—are we doing enough?; 10 years after the L'Ambiance Plaza collapse—lift slab construction—is it really safe; education in forensic engineering—an investment in our future; Northridge earthquake—the steel moment frame challenge—what went wrong and what are we doing about it?; computer misuse 1—the black box syndrome; and computer misuse 2—are we dealing with a time bomb? The 352-page volume costs \$34.
- **Lessons From the Oklahoma City Bombing** documents the disaster from an engineer's perspective. In addition to detailing the bombing specifics and the rescue/recovery effort, the book contains extensive information on defensive design principles, including architectural countermeasures and steps that can be taken to protect existing buildings. Copies of the 80 page book cost \$44.

Copies of these books can be obtained by contacting the American Society of Civil Engineers, 1801 Alexander Dr., Reston, VA 20191-4400; ph: 800/548-2723; fax: 703/295-6211; email: marketing@asce.org.

HSS Seminars Continue

In response to the growing popularity and use of hollow structural sections, AISC will offer an HSS seminar in 13 cities next year. The seminar, offered in association with the Steel Tube Institute and the American Iron & Steel Institute, will review and cover all aspects of HSS design and connections, including both simple and moment connections.

"The course is based on AISC's new *HSS Connection Manual*, which provides a consistent basis from which HSS connections can be designed, including simple shear and moment connections," explained Charles Carter, P.E., AISC's Director of Manuals. "It present the information that has been synthesized into a single practical sourcebook on HSS connection design.

The seminar, to be offered in 13 cities, will run all afternoon and into the evening. Sessions include:

- Materials and Specifications;
- Welding & Bolting;
- Shear Connections;
- Moment Connections;
- Tension & Compression Connections, Column Splices, Base and Cap Plates;
- Truss Connections and Examples;
- Constructability.

Cost of the seminar, including dinner, is \$175 for non-AISC members (\$135 for each additional attendee from the same firm) and \$140 for AISC members (\$100 for additional attendees from the same firm).

The seminar will include extensive hand-out material, but will not include the new HSS Connections Manual, which is now available and can be purchased for \$72. The seminar starts at 1:00 p.m. in each city and runs through 9:00 p.m. It has a continuing education value of 6.0 Professional Development Hours or .6 CEUs.

All *Modern Steel Construction* subscribers will automatically receive a detailed program mailing. If you don't receive one, please send a fax to 312/670-5403.