

Notes from the Editor's Desk



Editorial Contacts

Editor & Publisher:

Scott Melnick

ph: 312/670-8311
melnick@blacksquirrel.net

Senior Editor:

Keith A. Grubb, P.E., S.E.

ph: 312/670-8318
grubb@blacksquirrel.net

Associate Editor:

Karen Thornton

ph: 312/670-8310
thornton@blacksquirrel.net

Production Editor:

Elizabeth Phillips

ph: 312/670-8315
phillips@blacksquirrel.net

Editorial Offices:

One East Wacker Dr.,
Suite 2406
Chicago, IL 60601
fax: 312/670-0341

Advertising Contact

Account Manager:

John Byrne

ph: 847/699-6049
fax: 847/699-8681
jabber10@ix.netcom.com

Advertising Offices:

2400 E. Devon Ave.,
Suite 380
Des Plaines, IL 60018

To receive a media kit, call,
fax or email **John Byrne** or
view advertising information
on Modern Steel Construction's
web site at:

www.modernsteel.com

AISC Officers

Chairman:

Robert G. Abramson

Vice Chairman:

Terry Peshia

Treasurer:

Larry Steward

Secr. & Gen. Counsel:

David Ratterman

President:

H. Louis Gurthet, P.E.

Vice President:

(Finance & Administration)

Joe Dietrich

Vice President:

(Engineering & Research)

Nestor Iwankiw, P.E.

Vice President:

(Communications)

Scott Melnick

American Institute of Steel
Construction, Inc.
One East Wacker Dr.,
Suite 3100
Chicago, IL 60601-2001
ph: 312/670-2400

When my cousin asked me last week to pick him up at the airport, I gladly complied. Unfortunately, when I called the airline on the day of his arrival to confirm the arrival time, I learned the flight number he had provided did not exist. Since I couldn't reach my cousin at that point, I logged on to the Internet and searched for any flight from Montreal to Chicago landing at the time he gave me (ah...the beauty of a broadband connection at home—thank you AT&T). I quickly discovered a single flight—and was very happy to have done that small bit of research when I also learned it would be nearly three hours late.

It's amazing the amount of free information available on-line. American Airlines even offers a downloadable database of all of their flight arrival/departures (especially handy for frequent travelers to keep on their laptops).

If you haven't checked out AISC's website lately, I think you'll be very pleasantly surprised at the amount of information free for the download.

Highlights include:

- AISC Code of Standard Practice for Steel Buildings and Bridges;
- AISC FAQ Database (essentially, all of the questions and answers contained in "A Guide to Engineering and Quality Criteria for Steel Structures: Common Questions Answered");
- AISC Seismic Provisions;
- Construction Management Manual

- Steel Shape & HSS Shape Availability Listing;
- Steel Tips (produced by the Structural Steel Education Council); and
- Steel Interchange (from Modern Steel Construction—this is the complete database of questions and answers).

In addition, you can find lists of AISC members as well as Certified Steel Fabricators and Certified Steel Erectors. And, of course, you can order AISC publications right from the website.

We're also combining the MSC and AISC websites and working to bring better services. For example, we're currently working to allow mills and HSS producers to be able to update their listing on the Steel Shape and HSS Availability databases so that the information contained on the website is always accurate and up-to-date. We're also looking at creating a *Modern Steel Construction* Chat Room where article authors and readers could "meet" at pre-scheduled times for an exchange of information. Ideally, we'll also set up chats with various "notables" in the industry.

If you have other ideas for the AISC website, drop a note to Gretchen Goodrich at goodrich@aiscmail.com. Or, check out AISC's website at:

www.aisc.org