



September 2023
Third Quarter

Fire in the Hole Scroll

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BHC Calendar:

Nov. 17, 2023 —
BH Chapter Meeting
in Rapid City, SD

Jan. 12, 2024 —
BH Chapter Meeting
with Elections in
Rapid City, SD

Jan. 24-27, 2024—
ISEE Annual
Conference in
Savannah, GA

April 17-19, 2024—
Best in the West Drill
& Blast Conference in
Spearfish, SD

*If you have any
questions regarding
this newsletter or
would like to update
your communication
preferences, please
email Carrie at carriej@sayreassociates.com*

Thanks for reading!

BLACK HILLS CHAPTER OF ISEE

CHAPTER MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH

SD MINES ALUMNI BUILDING
330 E KANSAS CITY STREET
RAPID CITY, SD 57701

6:00 PM - SOCIAL HOUR SPONSORED BY RESPEC

7:00PM - CHAPTER MEETING AND SPEAKERS

SPEAKERS: TYLER ARTZ (RESPEC) AND
ALEX BOLDUC (SD MINES STUDENT)



Black Hills Chapter Information BLAST

Black Hills Chapter
President Megan
Buurma shares some
important chapter
information.



Next Meeting: November 17th

Our next Black Hills Chapter meeting is Friday, November 17th at the Alumni Building at South Dakota School of Mines. Social hour starts at 6:00 pm.

Tyler Artz from RESPEC will be speaking on "RESPEC: Drill and Blast Optimization Techniques". The student speaker will be **Alex Bolduc**, speaking about his summer internship experience.

Please plan to join us for good information, food, and conversation!

For your planning purposes, the next BHC meeting with elections will be January 12, 2024, at the SD Mines Alumni Building.

Help Grow the Chapter

For decades, this chapter has played an important role in training, sharing ideas, and making connections with others in the industry and students. We still have so much to offer and want to reach as many people as possible! Do you have ideas on how we can increase our membership? How can the BHC be a leader in the explosive industry within the state? This will be an ongoing major topic. Keep thinking!

Looking for Articles

Everyone enjoys this newsletter and would like to continue it. The newsletter will only be as long as what people share for articles.

We are in need of newsletter articles for this quarterly publication. I know you all have VERY interesting projects and we would love to hear about them!

Got a safety share? Send that also! Please send articles and pictures to Carrie Jaeger at carriej@sayreassociates.com.

Please note the articles do not have to be lengthy. One or two paragraphs or a few sentences are great! We all like looking at pictures, send them! All your help is greatly appreciated!

Update Your Information

We strive to have an accurate, current email distribution list for chapter communications. Has your email changed? Do you have others in your organization that want to receive our chapter happenings? Please send updates to Carrie at carriej@sayreassociates.com.

Thanks for being a part of the chapter!



APRIL 17-19, 2024
SPEARFISH, SD



Compliments of WorldWide Drilling Resource 2023
Photo Compliments of WorldWide Drilling Resource 2023



Congratulations to the National ISEE Scholarship Winners from SD Mines

Congratulations to the three students from South Dakota Mines who received scholarships from the ISEE, including Phil Nesbitt, Kristin Guerin, and Aser Kalkoumdo.



Pictured (L-R): ►

SD Mines Associate Professor Purushotham Tukkaraja, Phil Nesbitt and Kristin Guerin.

Possible New Women in Mining Chapter



Women in Mining, WIM, hosted an interest meeting Thursday, September 21st at The Knuckle in Sturgis, SD. Andrea Brickey presented a planning meeting to start a Black Hills chapter of Women in Mining. Thank you to Agnico Eagle for sponsoring the informative meeting. Pictured are the attendees for the event.

We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our Attitudes.

Charles R. Swindoll

quote fancy

In Memoriam: Cindy Hise

Obituary and photo from Kirk Funeral Home in Rapid City, SD, online at www.kirkfuneralhome.com



Cindy Ann Hise, 66, passed away on Thursday, August 10, 2023 at Rapid City Regional Hospital after her 4-year battle with cancer.

Cindy was born on April 2, 1957 to Fred and Shelby (Kirby) Neisent in Rapid City, SD. She graduated from Central High School in 1975.

She worked as a secretary in both the Mining and Metallurgy Dept for the SD School of Mines and Technology for over 25 years. She made an enormous impact on both the students and faculty alike. She would welcome anyone into her home for holidays if they had nowhere else to go. She would also decorate the office for special occasions, help bridge the cultural differences and even hosted a foreign student in her home. She was always willing to help in any way she could. It's easy to see how much of an impression she made on those around her by the overwhelming support she received from the students and faculty for which she was extremely grateful.

She is survived by her children Lisa (Thomas) Heinen and Sherri (Steven) Brooks and her son, Taylor (Lynae) Hise; her siblings; as well as her 5 grandchildren.

From a LinkedIn post from Andrea Brickey, PE, PhD, at SD Mines:

Dear SD Mines Mining Engineering and Metallurgy friends,

It breaks my heart to share with you this news. Cindy Hise passed away on August 10th surrounded by her loving family. Cindy served as the department secretary for the Mining Engineering Dept. for over 25 years before retiring in 2021. Cindy touched many of our lives with her kindness and support.



In Memoriam: Duane Straw

Obituary and photo from Kirk Funeral Home at www.kirkfuneralhome.com

Duane Lewis Straw of Hill City, SD passed away on the morning of September 6th, 2023.

Duane passed with his loving wife, Brenda Straw, by his side in their home. Duane and Brenda met in the summer of 1980 and Duane was immediately taken by Brenda. Duane fell in love with Brenda for her kind soul, witty personality, and beauty (inside and out). Brenda fell in love with Duane for his big heart, caring nature, and those beautiful blue eyes. Duane and Brenda would have been married for 42 years on October 24th.

Duane was born May 11 in Wallace, ID to the parents of Loite and Viola Straw. Duane grew up with his 11 other siblings in Hill City, SD.

Duane was a Driller and Blaster for many years. He worked Drilling and Blasting for Pacer Corporation, road construction, and spent the last 25 years of his career at Crazy Horse Memorial. He retired in 2016. Duane always spoke fondly about his time at Crazy Horse. He loved discussing the monument and you could tell how passionate he was about the work he did there. His wife Brenda put together a wall of pictures in his man cave, honoring Duane and all his years at Crazy Horse. She wanted him to know how proud she was of him. Duane was honored to know and work with the Ziolkowski family and his colleagues at Crazy Horse Memorial.

The family will celebrate Duane's life and his passing with a memorial late spring 2024, at his Man Cave and home.



What's Happening

Reports & News From Around the Industry

SD Mines Hosts North American Mine Ventilation Symposium

Photo and story from "Mines News" published June 16, 2023, found online at www.sdsmt.edu/News

[South Dakota Mines](#) will host the 19th [North American Mine Ventilation Symposium](#) in collaboration with the Underground Ventilation Committee (UVC) of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) from June 17-22, 2023.

Proper airflow and ventilation are critical for safety and operational activities inside a mine. The symposium promotes the exchange of ideas and research in a wide range of ventilation topics, including auxiliary and primary systems, mine fans, case studies, computational fluid dynamics applications, diesel particulate control, electric machinery, mine cooling and refrigeration, mine dust monitoring and control, mine fires and explosion prevention, mine gases, mine heat, mine ventilation and automation, occupational health and safety, renewable/alternative energy, monitoring and measurement, network analysis and optimization and planning and design.

"The North American Mine Ventilation Symposium, held every two to three years since 1982, provides a forum for ventilation experts, practitioners, educators, students, researchers, regulators, manufacturers and suppliers from around the world to exchange knowledge, ideas and opinions in the ventilation of mines, tunnels and other underground facilities such as the Sanford Underground Research Facility in the Black Hills," says Purushotham Tukkaraja, Ph.D., the NAMVS 2023 symposium chair and an associate professor in the [Department of Mining Engineering and Management](#) at SD Mines.

The NAMVS 2023 is a peer-reviewed symposium with parallel workshop sessions (two days), three full-day parallel technical sessions, including keynote sessions, panel discussions and exhibit booths, followed by mine tours. The symposium features an exhibit hall in the Fraser Gym at Mines with 20 booths. Exhibitors showcase their



▲ Dr. Purushotham Tukkaraja (left) stands with Mines civil and environmental Ph.D. graduate student Cody Allen along with Dr. Srivatsan Jayaraman Sridharan, a research scientist in the mining engineering department, next to a mine ventilation fan on display as part of the 19th North American Mine Ventilation Symposium on campus.

cutting-edge technology with live demonstrations. Technical sessions will be held in the Classroom Building rooms 204 E & W. The conference hosts almost 200 participants from around the world with representation from the United States, Canada, South Africa, Kazakhstan, Germany, Australia, Chile, Spain and more.

"I am grateful to all members of the symposium organizing committee for their help with peer-reviewing papers and chairing technical sessions, and a special thanks to our sponsors and exhibitors for their support and for helping make the symposium possible. Thanks to the campus Facilities, Risk and Services, Center for Alumni Relations and Advancement (CARA), the Office of Scheduling and Event Operations, Sodexo Dining Services and the Office of Marketing and Communications at South Dakota Mines for their help and support in organizing this international symposium on campus," says Tukkaraja.

September is Suicide Prevention Month

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. [Call](#) or [text 988](#) or chat [988lifeline.org](#) to reach the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

Written by Baron Fidler

Like safety, wellbeing is not about protecting you *from* something, it is about protecting you *for* something. Because the month of September is suicide prevention month, we'd like to focus on what we can do to recognize the signs of someone who is in distress and what actions we can take to help them get the care they need. The focus is on simple steps that could change a life.

We can all make a difference in the lives of those who might be struggling by having regular, meaningful conversations about life's ups and downs. Have a sincere conversation and be engaged with those around you whether at home, work, talking with neighbors, or making small talk at a café or coffee house.

If you feel like something's not quite the same with someone you know – there's something going on in their life or notice a change in what they're doing or saying – trust that gut instinct and take the time to ask them “Are you OK?”

By acting as ‘eyes and ears’ and reaching out to anyone who is going through a tough time we can show them they're supported and encourage them to access help sooner.

“Your awesome, Ellie!” 2nd shift boosters. This was written on a plant work area whiteboard a few years ago by one of the booster shift leads, only a couple of weeks before he committed suicide. He was a very motivated and driven individual supporting Ellie and his colleague. He cared about his team, and the work they did so much that he went out of his way to go above and beyond and encouraged his crew to do the same. He

was critical, without being disrespectful, and was one of the first people to really trust me as a member of the leadership team.

That message has remained on Ellie's whiteboard since 2019 with no intention of ever erasing it, because it helps remind her and colleagues that it's so often the people who work hard to build up those around them who are most in need of help themselves.

Mental health and suicide are things that not many people want to talk about but have touched a lot of lives. South Dakota had the 7th highest suicide rate in the nation in 2021 with 202 and 2022 with 191. Over the last ten years suicide deaths have increased by 50%.

There are options to assist with suicide prevention such as national crisis number (988) or with company health insurance Support Links. [R U OK?](#) is a global program to lend a hand for us to possibly assist friends and colleagues. Think about being here to hear when talking and engaging. A small effort will not go unnoticed by someone wanting to talk.

Call 988 for:

- Help with mental-health related distress
- Suicide crisis or having suicidal thoughts
- Help with substance use disorders
- Behavioral health resources and treatment options
- 24/7 emotional support

Registration is Open for ISEE's 50th Annual Conference on Explosives & Blasting

From <https://isee.org/conferences/2024-conference>. Photo of Savannah by Mick Haupt on Unsplash

Join experts and professionals from around the world as we celebrate five decades of enhancing the safety, science, skill, and benefits of explosives engineering. Be part of this historic event featuring thought-provoking presentations, groundbreaking research, and unmatched networking opportunities. Don't miss the chance to shape the future at this milestone event!

The official [conference registration](#) is now open. The full conference early bird registration is \$855 for members and \$975 for non-members. Standard registration beginning on November 1st is \$895 for members and \$1050 for non-members.

ISEE has selected [seven hotels](#) for you to choose from in the Savannah area with the Westin being the closest property to the convention center where the conference will be held. You can book, modify, or cancel your hotel reservations at any time.



Savannah Convention Center,
Savannah, GA
Jan. 24-27, 2024



Black Hills Chapter Contacts

Here are the 2023-2024 Black Hills Chapter Officers and Board of Directors. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact one of these members. Your suggestions are greatly appreciated.

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