



**Winter 2025**  
**Fourth Quarter**

# Fire in the Hole Scroll

## Inside this issue:

BHC Dec. Meeting..	<b>1-2</b>
Editors Note.....	<b>2</b>
Board Reviews 2025 ..	<b>3</b>
BITW Conference.....	<b>4</b>
SD Mines Thanks.....	<b>5</b>
BITW Planning .....	<b>6</b>
Crazy Horse.....	<b>6</b>
SD Mines Tour.....	<b>7</b>
WY DEQ Classes .....	<b>7</b>
Safety Reminders .....	<b>8</b>
Dues for 2026 .....	<b>9</b>
Review & Prepare .....	<b>10</b>
Contacts.....	<b>10</b>

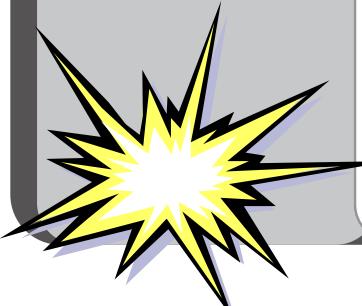
## Important Dates:

**January 16, 2026**—  
Black Hills Chapter  
Meeting with  
Elections in Rapid  
City, SD

**Jan. 20-25, 2026**—  
ISEE's 52nd Annual  
Conference in Reno,  
Nevada

**April 22-24, 2026**—  
Best in the West Drill  
& Blast Conference in  
Spearfish, SD

Black Hills Chapter  
3213 W. Main #140  
Rapid City, SD 57702



## Recap of the Black Hills Chapter December Membership Meeting

At the meeting held on 5 December, a total of 28 individuals attended. While 18 of the attendees were students, only 10 attendees were members. No SDSM&T faculty were present.

**Nelson Brothers** sponsored the meeting for the chapter, and everyone seemed to enjoy a variety of pizza and beverages. Thanks to the Nelson Brothers crew that made the drive from Gillette to attend and for sponsoring our meeting.



We had a total of four presentations at the meeting:

- The first presentation was by **Bayley Anderson** and **Grace Jenuine** (SDSM&T Students) and covered a description of the SDSM&T Student Chapter ISEE activities.
- The second presentation was by **Dominic Derting** (SDSM&T Student) and summarized a portion of his internship with Martin Marietta that was specific to a blast that failed to perform as desired.
- The third presentation was from **Scott Norman** (Pete Lien & Sons) and discussed the blasting issues resulting from conducting a signature hole that was incorporated into a standard production blast round. What went well, what went wrong, and some of what was required to correct the poor results.
- The fourth presentation was from **Dylan Haddix** (Nelson Brothers) and was a discussion regarding cast blast design parameters. His presentation also described some of what works well, some of what does not, and remediation measures to recover from poor shot performance.



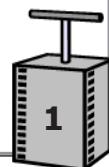
An engineering, science and technology university



The general subsequent discussion highlighted two specific observations that were evident in each of the presentations covering blasting:

One theme of discussion emphasized the need for constant communication upwards, downwards, and laterally for all the team

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ►



## Continued: Black Hills Chapter Dec. Meeting

members associated with the entire blasting process. Everyone...from the individuals obtaining the field measurements, doing the initial design work, pattern access, layout, and drilling, to the pattern loading practices and verifying every aspect of the loading process, and finally to the need to constantly scrutinize the site security and safety of everyone within the blast area. Almost all of the blasting issues presented occurred because of distinct breakdowns or failures in the lines of communication during some stage of the process.

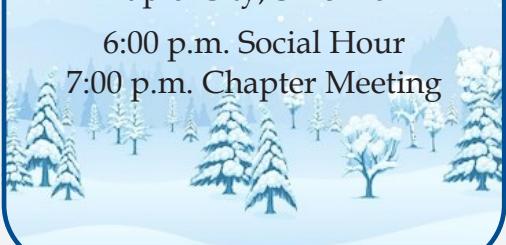
Another theme of discussion was stressing the point of being flexible enough to adjust blasting operations on the fly as problems with the process are encountered. The first thing is to recognize that a problem exists, or a mistake has occurred. The second thing is to solicit information or a knowledge base to assess the best means to create solutions for problems or mitigate the mistake (before the mistake becomes a bigger deal).

Many times, our chapter meetings are devoted to providing the students with meaningful exposure to what works well, what mistakes we have made, what we have learned through honest self-evaluation, what steps we have taken (or should have taken) to correct our mistakes, and what we hope to accomplish so we always get just a little bit better. If the students took some of that information from the presentations and ensuing discussions, then the meeting was a success. If the attendees managed to leave with smiles and full bellies, then so much the better!



### Next BHC Meeting

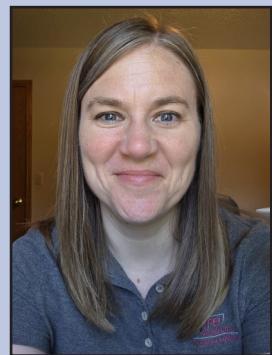
**Friday, January 16, 2026**  
at the SD Mines CARA  
March Ballroom  
330 E Kansas City Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
6:00 p.m. Social Hour  
7:00 p.m. Chapter Meeting



The next chapter meeting will be held on 16 January, and the primary focus of that meeting will be the chapter election of officers. Hopefully, we will see a huge turnout of the membership to actively participate in this process. As a chapter, we welcome seeing new, shiny faces so if you have co-workers - especially those individuals listed on your company's corporate membership - encourage them to come to this meeting. Even if you must drag them, kicking and screaming.

## Message from the Newsletter Editor

This issue marks the final chapter newsletter produced in this format. After I've created 62 issues in Microsoft Publisher, the software will no longer be supported in 2026 unfortunately. It's time for a change! While I'm not yet sure what the next version of the newsletter will look like, I'm excited to explore new options and continue sharing chapter updates and happenings with you. Thank you for reading and for being part of this journey! - *Carrie*



"Isn't it funny how day by day nothing changes, but when you look back everything is different." - C.S. Lewis

## BHC Board of Directors Reminisce on 2025

### What was a highlight in your work or the industry this year?

- \* "After 28-years at Pete Lien & Sons and over 40-years of mining, I retired on 31 July 2025." - Darcey Baker, BHC President
- \* "One of the biggest highlights of my year was transitioning into a new role as a Risk Analyst at Coeur Mining. The position has given me the opportunity to gain valuable insight into many different areas of the industry." - Megan Buurma Marvin, BHC Past President
- \* "I have been filling in as a D&B Engineer until one of our customers can find a full-time replacement. During this time, I was tasked with improving the post shot profile for an open-ended cast blast." - Dylan Haddix, Board

### What accomplishment (big or small) made you proud this year?

- \* "Completed an exploration project and generated a comprehensive Mine Plan for an Iron Ore deposit that will provide for responsible mining and reclamation of a necessary resource for several decades." - Darcey Baker, BHC President

### Do you have a favorite memory from an event, project, or site visit this year?

- \* "Supporting 2025 BITW even with a broken collar bone. At least Tony Trouchon was impressed." - Baron Fidler, Board

### What's a winter or holiday tradition you enjoy when you're *not* thinking about drilling & blasting?

- \* "Family... Both of our children are back in the area and our growing clan includes four grandchildren - - 3-girls & 1-boy aged 7 years to as young as 3-weeks. Needless to say, Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are busy, hectic, loud, sticky, and definitely not for the faint of heart." - Darcey Baker, BHC President
- \* "I really enjoy family time during the holidays, especially teaching my kids our long-standing tradition of making Christmas cookies." - Megan Buurma Marvin, BHC Past President
- \* "Winter/holiday tradition: either goose hunting or snow shoeing." - Dylan Haddix, Board

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My superpower is holding onto junk for years and throwing it away a week before I need it.



**April 22–24, 2026 || Register at [bitwconference.org](http://bitwconference.org)**

*Holiday Inn Convention Center in Spearfish, South Dakota*

The Best in the West Conference is a great opportunity to network with approximately 300 attendees and 45 exhibitors in the industry, see equipment and techniques, and talk with the best in the business. It is a great value for training, and provides resources to make your operations safer and more profitable: ***the best bang for the buck!***

#### **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION**

Register online or download forms at [www.bitwconference.org](http://www.bitwconference.org). Blaster credit hours accepted in multiple states. Typically 13.5 hours of qualified subjects (no guarantees).

#### **HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

Book online at [www.holiday-inn.com/spearfishsd](http://www.holiday-inn.com/spearfishsd) (group code BIW) or call (605) 642-4683 and mention "explosives engineers".

#### **QUESTIONS**

James McNulty at (605) 786-4959 or email [bitwconference@gmail.com](mailto:bitwconference@gmail.com)

*All proceeds support explosives and mineral industry scholarships.*

James Carter

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"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or we can rejoice because thorn bushes have roses." - Abraham Lincoln

## Thank You Notes from the ISEE Scholarship Recipients from South Dakota Mines

Dear SEE Education Foundation members,

I am sincerely grateful to have been selected as a recipient of the Society of Explosives Engineers Education Foundation Scholarship. Your generous support of my education means a great deal to me, and it motivates me to continue striving toward my academic and professional goals.

I am currently pursuing my degree in Mining Engineering at South Dakota Mines. My studies have given me the opportunity to strengthen my knowledge of geology, mining methods, and mine ventilation, which are vital skills for the mining industry. This scholarship helps me focus more on my classes and professional development rather than financial stress, allowing me to dedicate myself fully to my education.

Outside of my coursework, I enjoy engaging with classmates through team projects and campus activities, which help me grow as a leader and collaborator. After graduation, I plan to contribute to safe, and sustainable resource development.

Best wishes, Gloria

Dear Scholarship Committee Members,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for awarding me with ISEE Scholarship. This serves as a source of inspiration, and I am truly humbled to receive this honor. It reaffirms my dedication to achieving academic success and to applying my technical knowledge to the mining industry.

This scholarship came at a time when I needed it most. As a graduate student in Mining Engineering, it has been difficult for me to strike a balance between the demands of academics and financial obligations. This assistance does not only lessen the financial burden of my education but also motivate me to keep working towards my objectives. I am particularly appreciative of your faith in my abilities and your dedication to encouraging students to seek higher education.

Once again, I am so grateful for this opportunity that has changed my life completely. I am honored to be one of the scholarship beneficiaries this year, and I will use this privilege with purpose and gratitude.

Sincerely, Lilyrose Berko-Ampofo

Thank you - I'm honored and grateful to be selected for a scholarship! This award will help me to pursue my educational, early-career, and long-term goals. Thanks again for your support of students!

Tyler Kleinsasser

Tyler Kleinsasser ►



▲ Gloria Miranda Apaza with Professor Dr. Purushotham Tukkaraja



▲ Lilyrose Berko-Ampofo with Dr. Purushotham Tukkaraja



# What's Happening

Reports & News From Around the Industry

## Updates from the BITW Planning Committee

The Best in the West Conference Planning Committee has been having meetings to start making necessary decisions and preparations for the 2026 event. The 15 person team has a lot of items to consider when putting on a conference of this size—logistics, speakers, sponsors, website, scholarships, banquet, live auction, three separate events, etc.

Some updates so far:

- Conference logo and all registration forms have been updated. The website went live on November 17th for online registrations.

- Seismic Certification from the ISEE will take place on the Tuesday afternoon before the conference at the hotel. It will be a separate registration and payment.
- Emily Arthun with the American Coal Council will be returning as the Opening Session Speaker. She did a great job last year! She will have a new presentation for this year.
- The banquet will be re-named and new entertainment will be added. We are looking for big items for the auction and drawings. Must be present to win!

## Crazy Horse Memorial Making Progress

*From Crazy Horse Memorial: Insider Update Fall/Winter 2025, emailed on December 2, 2025.*

The work of the Mountain Crew is evident when looking at the Mountain from the Visitor Center. Below Crazy Horse's Arm, there are undeniably parts of the Horse's Mane coming into view. There are also many areas progress is being made, that are not as clear to the naked eye. The Crew continues to build upon their knowledge and uses of the tower crane. In addition to the Crew's existing certified crane operator, others are working toward certification. Crane training was conducted and the eight Crew Members who took the written test passed. The practical testing will be done at a later date.

When lifting blocks with the tower crane, the Carvers will insert 1" steel dowels with a yield strength of 51 tons. This method is working well in removing large blocks from saw cut areas on the Mountain. Remember, before the tower crane, these blocks would need to be



broken into more manageable pieces before clearing them from the area. The tower crane was useful in another way while removing pieces of a boulder from Crazy Horse's Head. The boulder atop the Head is an estimated 106 ton of Mountain in its natural form. While

removing the first portion of this boulder, an 11.6 ton piece, the Crew secured the piece with the tower crane before separating it from the Mountain as a safety measure with the old Mountain Shop being just below the work area.

The other piece of equipment, acquired at the same time as the tower crane, the robotic arm, is now onsite. The practice and testing phase is underway as the Crew incorporates this magnificent tool into the work on the Sculpture. The goal is to create cuts that result in an aesthetic mane shape which is currently being perfected on blocks removed from the Mountain.

# What's Happening

Reports & News From Around the Industry

## Tour for SD Mines' Explosives Engineering Class

On a beautiful South Dakota fall day in October, a group of juniors and seniors from South Dakota Mines had an experience they won't forget.

Students in Dr. Brickey's Introduction to Explosives Engineering had the amazing opportunity to see the loading operations and a blast at the Pete Lien & Son's Blackhawk Quarry. The students learned from the blast crew about delays, drill patterns, loading, and the best part....the blast.



A big thanks to Pete Lien's with special thanks to Jason Schneider, Scott Norman and Jeff Harris for sharing their knowledge and making this learning experience happen.



## Training Opportunities from Wyoming DEQ-LQD

### Wyoming Blaster Certification Class

- January 13-15, 2026
- Hampton Inn, 10690 S. Holiday Park Drive, Sandy, Utah
- To register, please contact Reo Barney at (307) 675-5612 or [reo.barney@wyo.gov](mailto:reo.barney@wyo.gov)
- This class and exam fulfills the [State of Utah](#) requirements for new certification and renewal. Please contact Levy Woodruff ([lkwoodruff@utah.gov](mailto:lkwoodruff@utah.gov) or 801-538-5352) for additional requirements and for the [Utah Blaster Application](#)



For additional information, check out the WY DEQ-LQD Blasting website at <https://deq.wyoming.gov/land-quality/blasting/>

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Mental Note:  
Actual notes work better.



## Blasting Activities Reminders

*Reminders from the MSHA website, with a few additional thoughts*

We often may consider MSHA as more of a **compliance agency** to ensure we are completing tasks as required by Code of Federal Regulations 30. We may want to consider MSHA as more of a **support resource** as there are many documents and tools on their website to be used for drill and blast crew training.

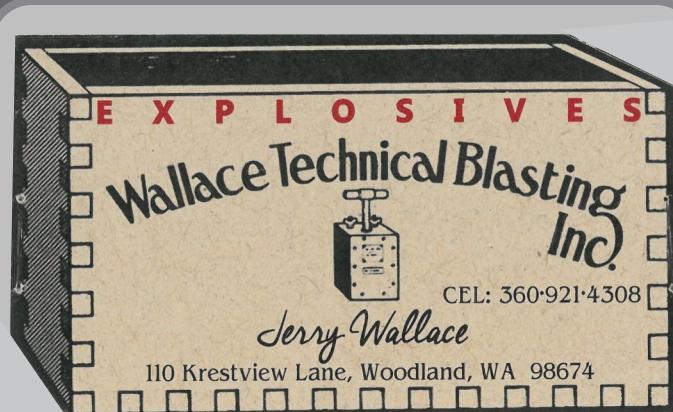
Recently, I came across the information below regarding the use of explosives and the tasks related to safe transportation, handling and application. This MSHA Educational Field and Small Mine Services review document is in the toolbox section on the MSHA website.

This is one example of a task training support tool free to use, either during annual refresher training or morning tailgate sessions as encouragement for dialog and engagement with the drill and blast crew. Team discussion to review what went well and what could be better are keys to continuous improvement ideas within the drill and blast tasks the crew performs each day. Even more critical if these tasks are occasionally performed such as a construction blast or a water diversion project or a project to remove a material hazard. The tasks not commonly performed by the drill and blast crew can lead to uncertainty.

### Use of Explosives

Remember, accidents do not just happen. Invariably, they occur because of indifferences to safety rules and lack of information or effective training.

- SLAM: Stop Look Analyze Manage every project should begin with a plan that includes discussion on how this type of task had been completed before and any problems that may occur.
- Task training is essential for any new miners or on new equipment that has not been involved in these types of projects in the past.
- Proper PPE is required: hard hats, safety glasses, boots, gloves, goggles. 56.15002, 56.15003, 56.15004
- Survey your working area, conduct a workplace examination of the high wall that includes the high wall face to assure ground conditions are safe to work on. Clear any loose material in and around the area to be loaded. 56.3200, 56.3401
- Fall protection is required whenever there is a danger of falling. Assure that everyone working near the edge is using the proper fall protection and is tied off to sufficient anchor point. 56.15005
- Never drill and load at the same time, complete all drilling before loading holes begins. Never move drilling equipment, or any other equipment across blasting area. 56.6306
- Use only vehicles equipped for transporting explosives. 56.6202
- Separation of transported explosive materials. 56.6200, 56.6201, 56.6300
- Initiation preparation shall be made up at the blast site. 56.6303, 56.6305, 56.6308
- Be aware of any misfires and observe proper waiting period. 56.6310, 56.6311
- Keep explosives on the ground, and away from heat sources, lower bags to the ground, do not throw bags of anfo, do not allow any smoking. 56.6904
- Listen to weather forecast, clear area if a storm approaches. 56.6604



[wtbinc@teleport.com](mailto:wtbinc@teleport.com)

[www.wallacetechicalblasting.biz](http://www.wallacetechicalblasting.biz)

It's a good day to have a good day.

## Black Hills Chapter Membership Forms

Great things are happening in the Black Hills Chapter ISEE and we invite you to become a member! Mail this completed application and payment to Black Hills Chapter ISEE, 3213 W Main #140, Rapid City, SD 57702 **OR** complete and pay online at <https://mcnultyjamesd.wufoo.com/forms/black-hills-chapter-isee-annual-membership/>

### Individual Membership for BHC ISEE — 2026 Dues \*

NAME (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER STATUS: (Check One) Associate  Full  National ISEE # \_\_\_\_\_

Local Dues - \$25 per year      Students - Free

### Corporate Membership for BHC ISEE — 2026 Dues \*

COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

AUTHORIZING PERSON & TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a sheet with the names, addresses and e-mail addresses of each person to be included in Corporate Membership.

<u>Members</u>	<u>Annual Dues</u>
0-10	\$200
11-20	\$300
21 or more	\$500



Harley W. Bradbury  
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## Prompts to Review 2025 and Prepare for 2026

Here are some suggested year-end journaling questions to reflect on your past year and to set intentions for the year ahead.

### Reflecting on the Past Year (2025)

- What were your 3 biggest highlights or proudest moments?
- What challenges did you overcome, and what did you learn from them?
- What habits or routines served you well, and which held you back?
- Who brought you joy or supported you, and who drained your energy?
- What are you most grateful for this year?

### Letting Go & Moving Forward

- What do you want to leave behind from this year (emotions, habits, regrets)?
- What new skills or experiences do you want to invite in next year?
- What is one word you would use to describe this past year?
- If you could give your past self advice, what would it be?

### Looking to the Future (2026)

- What are your top 3-5 goals or intentions for the coming year?
- What small changes could have a big positive impact on your life?
- How will you prioritize self-care, health, and finances in the new year?
- What is one thing you want to create or accomplish that would make you proud?



## Black Hills Chapter Contacts

Here are the 2025-2026 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.

### Darcey Baker, President

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