



Notes from the Editor

Scott L. Melnick

If you had a question about structural steel design or construction, what would you do? For example, if you wanted to know where to get information on shape availability, or wanted to know how to determine steel tonnage costs on an "as erected" basis, who would you ask?

What if you wanted to know what kind of finish you could expect for Architecturally Exposed Structural Steel (AESS) that has been galvanized? Or if you wanted to know if steel-framed buildings qualify as "restrained" for fire protection code requirements?

You could thumb through old *Modern Steel Construction* articles, check out papers published in *Engineering Journal*, or perhaps post the question to an on-line list serve.

Or, if you were really savvy, you might have known that for much of its nearly four score years of existence, AISC has provided technical assistance to designers and fabricators. However, the service wasn't something that was publicized, promoted or fully staffed.

Fortunately, that has all changed. With its grand opening on July 2, AISC's Steel Solutions Center provides a one-stop shop for help with preliminary design, cost information, marketing data and technical assistance. Currently staffed by five engineers, but supported by both AISC's engineering and marketing departments, the Steel Solutions Center should prove to be a great resource for everyone involved in the design, construction, fabrication and development of structural steel-framed buildings.

Now, if you want to know the average cost for a three-story, steel, braced frame office building in Peoria there is just one phone number to remember: **312/670-2400**. Or if you want to know if weep holes should be used at the bottoms of Hollow Structural Section (HSS) columns, there is a handy email address for submitting questions: solutions@aiscmail.com. And if you want to know what procedure should be followed when assessing steel that has been exposed to a fire, you can simply fax **312/670-5403**.

Of course, AISC's dissemination of information about steel design and construction doesn't stop with the Steel Solutions Center. Other useful tools include:

- *Engineering Journal* and the EJ CD-ROM—A one-year subscription to *Engineering Journal* costs just \$35, while a CD-ROM containing more than 120 issues costs only \$150.
- AISC's Website—www.aisc.org contains a myriad of useful items, including free downloads of a wide range of AISC documents and an extensive list of frequently asked questions.
- AISC's online chats—Upcoming topics include: structural bolting, coatings, joists, the new *Manual* and galvanizing. Plus, edited transcripts of are available on AISC's website.
- North American Steel Construction Conference—The premier structural engineering and fabrication conference is scheduled for April 24-27, 2002, in Seattle.

Editorial Contacts

Editorial Offices

Black Squirrel Communications
One E. Wacker Dr., Suite 2122
Chicago, IL 60601
ph: 312/670-8310
fax: 312/670-0341

Editor & Publisher

Scott L. Melnick
ph: 312/670-8314
melnick@blacksquirrel.net

Senior Editor

Keith A. Grubb, P.E., S.E.
ph: 312/670-8318
grubb@blacksquirrel.net

Associate Editor

Karen Thornton
ph: 312/670-8316
thornton@blacksquirrel.net

Production Editor

Mindy Rachofsky
ph: 312/670-8315
rachofsky@blacksquirrel.net

Address Changes/Subscriptions

ph: 312/670-5444
fax: 312/670-5403
kingston@aiscmail.com

Advertising Contact

Account Manager

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

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

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

www.modernsteel.com

AISC Officers

Chairman

Robert G. Abramson

Vice Chairman

Terry Peshia

Treasurer

Larry Steward

Secretary & General Counsel

David Ratterman

President

H. Louis Gurthet, P.E.

Vice President, Finance & Administration

E. Joseph Dietrich

Vice President, Engineering & Research

Nestor Iwankiw, P.E.

Vice President, Communications

Scott L. Melnick

