



# BASLINE

American Society of Highway Engineers Region 6—Southern New Jersey Section



## President's Message—James Maloney

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I would like to take a moment to reflect on yet another devastating loss to our industry that has occurred in this young year. Rich Gramlich, former NJDOT and current NJ Transit employee, was tragically taken from us on a rainy Saturday evening. I am sure that you share the sadness of a loss of one of our most recognizable colleagues, client, SNJ ASHE Member and friend. The tragedy of Rich's loss underscores the importance of our focus on improving the condition and safety of our roadways. In the near future, you will learn of details of the 2010 ASHE Golf Outing which will raise money to aid in the training of future highway professionals, but will also this year pay tribute to our fallen colleagues. We sincerely hope that you will join us to honor their memory.

On to regular business, we are drawing to the close of our ASHE season, and have

### Upcoming Event - Project of the Year / Contractor Roundtable

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Tuesday, April 13th, 2010  
5:00 PM Start

- 5:00PM Cocktails
- 6:00PM Dinner
- 7:00PM Roundtable
- 7:45PM Project of the Year Presentations

Location: Holiday Inn—East Windsor  
See Page 11 for More Information

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two interesting events remaining before the golf outing. On Tuesday April 13th, we will hold a special joint meeting with the North Central New Jersey section at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor. The event will feature the honoring of our Project of the Year nominees and winners (we received a great variety of nominations from across the State) along with a special contractor roundtable discussion. The panel will include senior level representatives of some of the major heavy contractors in the State and will give both engineers and contractors an opportunity to discuss both ideas and concerns. We hope you will join us. In May, we are planning our annual field trip, this year to the Route 36 Highlands project. The field trip will also feature the installation of 2010-11 SNJ ASHE Board of Directors and officers. We are currently looking for interested individuals who wish to join and be actively involved in Board activities. If you are interested, please contact Polina Knaster, Nominating Committee Chair at [polina.knaster@dot.state.nj.us](mailto:polina.knaster@dot.state.nj.us).

Respectfully,  
Jim Maloney—ASHE SNJ President

[ASHE 2010 National Conference - Cincinnati, Ohio - June 9-13, 2010](#)

We encourage you to attend the conference, as you can look forward to exciting technical programs, guest tours, networking, good friendship and hospitality.

[www.ashe2010.org](http://www.ashe2010.org)

Early bird conference and hotel registration rates are available until **May 2, 2010**. Online registration is located at:

[www.regonline.com/ashe\\_2010\\_national\\_convention](http://www.regonline.com/ashe_2010_national_convention)

Calendar of Events 2009-2010

DATE	EVENT	SPEAKERS/LOCATION
4/13/2010	NJ ASHE Project of the Year Contractor/Designer Roundtable	Holiday Inn East Windsor, NJ
5/19/2010	Route 36 Highlands Bridge Tour and Installation of Officers	TBD
7/2010	Golf Outing	Buena Vista, NJ

## Board of Directors 2009-2010

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## SNJ ASHE Membership Update

Lots of New ASHE members  
since the last update:

Know someone who would like to join?  
Click the link below to download an application!

<http://www.reg6ashe.org/docs/SNJ/membershipapplication2007-08.pdf>

Michael Folli	PB
Steven Manera	HNTB Corp
Van Singer	Accumark
Michael Yang	Michael Baker Jr, Inc.
Wayne Howitz	Taylor, Wiseman & Taylor
Thomas Faranda	Hardesty & Hanover
David Gerber	Hardesty & Hanover
Aravinda Ramakrishna	Hardesty & Hanover
Paul Jakubicki	Hardesty & Hanover
Raymond Mankbadi	Hardesty & Hanover
William Day	NJDOT (Safety Programs)

Total Section  
Members:

# 212

## THE PRICE OF GLORY

In my last article I wrote about Jimmie Johnson's four NASCAR championships. Recently HBO has been showing a series providing an inside look into Jimmie Johnson and his #48 team. They have only run a few programs as of this writing but you can already see why they have been able to achieve such success. It was certain that they hired top talent throughout the organization and work very hard at their craft, producing fast race cars. But then again, so do most teams. So what really sets them apart? While viewing the program I was reminded of the book by Jim Collin's "Good to Great". Many of you have already read this book. If not, it is must reading for those companies wanting to get to "the next level".

It is clear that Chad Knaus, the crew chief is the coach and more importantly the leader of the team. He is not the owner but has been given full reign to run the team his way with full authority. We all know that a management title means nothing unless those above you empower you to direct others. What would have happened if President Kennedy did not charge NASA to put a man on the moon? What if Mickey refused to train Rocky Balboa? What if Bill Gates' mom kept the car in the garage and did not let him use the garage to play with electronics? We know what would have happened; we would still think the moon is made of cheese, Apollo Creed would be "World Champion" and this article would have been typed on an electric typewriter and have several coatings of white out.

Back to Chad. The #48 team has raised the bar higher than other teams in terms of individual performance and accountability. Chad himself admits that most of his staff and crew think he is an a..hole. (His words). Every employee is measured continuously and if they fall below the bar they are gone. No questions or answers just bring in the next guy. So, the real reason the #48 team continues to win championships is because all team members pledge allegiance to the checkered flag of the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, and to the Championship for which it stands, one team under Chad, indivisible, with money and glory for all. And they must all be willing to pay the price for this glory. The long hours, the no excuses, and a race preparation unrivaled by the competition both physically and mentally. Chad lives alone during the season, employees live with the knowledge that if they do not perform at the team standard of expectations that this may be their last work day and all working under intense conditions. Well, no different than working for any organization whose only mission is to grab the golden ring.

I cannot dispute the success of the #48 team. It is a well oiled machine packed with the fuel of desire, operating on all cylinders on the roadway to victory. (I am on my way to a Pulitzer; you can't buy this kind of writing. Mainly because I do this for free). I do agree that a company can achieve their goals by embracing the style of Jimmie Johnson's team but it is difficult to maintain indefinitely. There is a danger when one person controls too much within an organization. Is it really a team? What would happen if Chad Knaus moves to another NASCAR team? There is a fine line between loyalty and fear. Will this crew perform at the same level under a weaker crew chief? Will they be just as motivated? Look at your own organizations and ask those same questions. This is getting too deep. I need to go watch a race. See you at the next ASHE meeting.

Bob Palumbo

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# SAFETY PAGE

Next Safety Committee Meeting  
 April 6th, 5:30PM  
 All are welcome!

Dear SNJ ASHE Members,

January's Safety Page was dedicated in memory of Joseph Kealey, a NJDOT highway professional killed in the line of duty on January 11<sup>th</sup>. It saddens me to report that on January 16<sup>th</sup> Corporal Christopher Milito of the Port Authority Police Department was also killed in the line of duty on the Walt Whitman Bridge. January was a devastating month for highway safety professionals in South Jersey. In light of these tragedies, the SNJ ASHE Board of Directors voted to donate a portion of the proceeds from this year's golf outing in memory of Joseph Kealey and Christopher Milito.

This month's safety page is intended to raise your awareness regarding roadside barriers. Please remember that as a highway engineering professional, you can make a difference and the life you save may be one of my loved ones, so THANK YOU for your efforts!

If you are interested in finding out more about the SNJ ASHE Safety Committee please email ([joe.fiocco@mcmtrans.com](mailto:joe.fiocco@mcmtrans.com)) me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Joe Fiocco, Safety Committee Chair

## DID YOU KNOW...

**Properly placed guiderail is a hazard.** According to AASHTO's Roadside Design Guide, "The primary purpose of all roadside barriers is to prevent a vehicle from leaving the traveled way and striking a fixed object or terrain feature that is less forgiving than striking the barrier itself." As highway engineers our first focus should be to eliminate the fixed object or terrain feature. Our second focus should be to redesign the feature so it can be safely traversed. If that is not possible, look to relocate the hazard further from the travelled way. If that is not practical we should consider a breakaway device. Only after these steps should we consider installing a roadside barrier that is less of a hazard...but still a hazard. More details regarding the above can be found in the AASHTO's Roadside Design Guide which is available at AASHTO's Bookstore: <https://bookstore.transportation.org>



## CRASH FACTS:

### 2007 New Jersey Crash Facts:

Crashes	306,816
Hit Fixed Object (HFO) Crashes	25,057
HFO Injuries	6,201
HFO Fatalities	72
South Jersey HFO Fatalities (Mercer/Monmouth & South)	31

Every day approx. 27 vehicle occupants are exposed to crashes involving a guiderail impact in New Jersey.



## What clear zone needs to be maintained behind a curb?

The difference between a "clear zone" and horizontal clearance or "operational offset" has been a topic of much confusion. When the Green Book and the Roadside Design Guide were last updated, the AASHTO committees coordinated to dispel the misunderstanding that 2 feet (actually, 18 inches) behind a curb constituted a clear zone. Since curbs are now generally recognized as having no significant containment or redirection capability, clear zone should be based on traffic volumes and speeds, both without and with a curb. Realizing that there are still contradictory passages in various AASHTO documents, the Technical Committee on Roadside Safety has initiated a short-term project to identify all such inconsistencies and to recommend appropriate language corrections. This effort is underway. The fourth paragraph under Section 3.4.1 Curbs in the 2002 Roadside Design Guide correctly defines AASHTO's "position".

The above was taken from FHWA's web site. The answers to other frequently asked questions related to clear zone and horizontal clearance can be found at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/clearzone.cfm>





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Joint Meeting  
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### Contractor Roundtable Special Guests

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### Project of the Year Awards

Come find out which  
projects in New Jersey  
won these awards:

- less than \$5M total construction cost category
- over \$5M total construction cost category

Tuesday,  
April 13th, 2010

HOLIDAY INN  
399 Monmouth Street  
East Windsor, NJ 08520  
609-443-8000 . FAX 609-448-3919

5:00 PM Cocktails  
6:00 PM Dinner  
7:00 Roundtable  
7:45 Project of the Year

\$45 per attendee!

*Please Note the Special Time and Registration  
Information — See Next Page*

APRIL DINNER MEETING REGISTRATION INFORMATION

DATE: Tuesday April 13, 2010	COST: \$45 per attendee
LOCATION: HOLIDAY INN 399 Monmouth St East Windsor, NJ 08520, 609-443-8000 . FAX 609-448-3919	SCHEDULE: 4:00PM-5:00PM ..... BOD Meeting 5:0PM-6:00PM ..... Social Hour/Cash Bar 6:00PM-7:00PM ..... Dinner 7:00PM-7:45PM ..... Roundtable 7:45PM-8:30PM ..... Project of the Year
RSVP: By MONDAY April 12, 2010 <i>Please list names, firm and ASHE Section for all individuals.</i> E-Mail: ASHE-SNJ@comcast.net	PAYMENT: Forward Checks Payable to "ASHE-SNJ" Edward H. McMahon 4 Tallowood Court Mantua, NJ 08051

SPECIAL REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Due to the anticipated high attendance at this event, seating is available first come first served.  
Please be sure to RSVP by Monday, April 12th.  
Also, please note that reservations for this event will be handled by the SNJ Section.  
Please be sure to make your check payable to "ASHE-SNJ" and bring it to the meeting.  
This meeting has a special schedule, beginning at 5:00PM.

Registration is via SNJ ASHE's email address, ASHE-SNJ@comcast.net.  
Please list names, firm and ASHE Section for each individual registering. Thanks for your cooperation.

**DIRECTIONS TO HOLIDAY INN:**

**FROM NEWARK AND NORTH**  
Take NJ Turnpike south to Exit 8. Right after toll to Freehold/Twin Rivers (Route 33 East), turn left at 1st stop light to Woodside Ave. Hotel is straight ahead.

**FROM TRENTON AND SOUTH**  
Take Rt 95 North to Rt 1 North. Turn right on Rt571 (Princeton-Hightstown Rd). At T in Hightstown turn left, immediately turn right on Rt 33 East. Turn left on Woodside Ave after NJ Turnpike entrance. Hotel is straight ahead.



**ASHE – Southern NJ Section Monthly Meeting  
Payment Form - Due April 13, 2010 (at meeting)**

Firm: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone : \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

ASHE Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

(\$45 Per Attendee)

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