



Spring 2009, Volume 2, Issue 1

Professional Partners

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*Building a better world, one community at a time...*


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## Technology Development Committee

EWB LA is excited to announce the formation of a committee focused on designing appropriate technologies for developing communities. While our current chapter projects focus mainly on community specific engineering solutions, the Appropriate Technology Group (ATG) will focus on general technologies that we as a chapter can develop, prototype, and implement in both villages where we currently have projects, as well as new communities. Recent examples of appropriate technology development abound; a human-powered charcoal briquette compressor for use in a deforested Haitian village, a more efficient home-cooking stove for African communities, and a solar (thermal) powered water pump for another African village are just a few projects that other groups are working on.

At our May general meeting the ATG kicked off our drive for interested EWB members and their ideas. Hopefully, through a collaborative, imaginative search the group will be able to focus on a few technologies to develop and prototype later this year. This Group is just beginning and hopes to have a large number of members. To be successful we need your ideas! Many of our EWB members have traveled to developing communities; what do they need? What are their problems? Can we apply engineering solutions to help them solve their problems? Often times in the developing world problems can be solved with solid,

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**June 3:** 7pm SC Conference Call Meeting

**June 20:** 8am Habitat for Humanity, Monrovia

**June 30:** 7pm General Meeting @TBD

**July 28:** 7pm Chapter Social @TBD

rational engineering, not rocket science. But we need your input and your experience to be successful!

This is new ground for EWB-LA. As our group progresses, we hope to partner with some of the local student EWB chapters to further develop products. If you are interested in joining the ATG of EWB-LA (or have access to a machine shop where our group could meet) please contact Tom Hennessey ([atg@ewb-la.org](mailto:atg@ewb-la.org)). In the meantime, brainstorm!

**Congratulations to the new  
2009-2010 Executive Committee!**

**President:** David Jacobson

**Vice-President:** Joel Cesare

**Secretary:** Liz Jordan

**Treasurer:** Mark Schaffer

## Donate to EWB-LA

Make checks payable to EWB-USA with "for EWB-LA" in the memo line or "LA Chapter-Malawi Project/Mali Project" to donate directly to a project.

**Mail to:**

**Engineers Without Borders - USA**  
4665 Nautilus Court, Suite 300  
Boulder, CO, 80301

## 2009-2010 EWB-LA Sponsors

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## Get Involved!

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The new year for EWB-LA is just getting started, and there are lots of opportunities to get involved. Join a chapter committee or project team. Here is a list of roles we need people to fill:

**Malawi Project:** Members of EWB-LA are working with the Malamulo Hospital in Malawi to improve the water system there. Currently the team is designing a rainwater catchment system to be built at Malamulo this fall. People are needed to assist in design, fundraising, education and implementing sustainable policies across the hospital campus. To learn more, contact **MalawiWaterProject@gmail.com**.

**Mali Project:** EWB-LA is working with NomadHope, Rotary International and other EWB chapters to improve six schools in northern Mali. These schools provide education to the children of nomads in this region. EWB-LA is assisting in improving the schools' water and sanitation systems as well as providing solar power. Contact Keely McGeehan (**keely@NomadHope.org**) to get involved.

**Events & Outreach Committee:** This committee is helping responsible for planning community outreach and

## Member Profile: Mike McMenamin

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*Mike is EWB-LA's first lifetime member. He is involved in several projects and has been a key donor to the chapter.*

**When did you join EWB?** 2006

**What got you interested in EWB?** I got hooked on travelling in the late 90s and was surprised how so many people still live without necessities like food, water, sanitation, medicine, shelter, clothing, electricity & education. To see it firsthand was shocking and life-changing. I felt very lucky and a bit guilty about living in the bountiful but wasteful USA. It became apparent to me that a little bit of knowledge, money, time and effort could be leveraged and go a long way, especially in developing countries. I started looking for ways to help and attended "Water for People" meetings where someone mentioned EWB. I looked online and "boom" - I found a perfect volunteer program for me.

**Can you describe the project(s) you've been involved in?** As a professional co-mentor I am directly involved in EWB-UCLA's No Lae School Project - a 3-room school building in Doi Ang Khang, North Thailand. Also, I joined EWB-LA halfway into the tsunami reconstruction project in India and helped there a little bit.

**Where have you traveled with EWB?** Since November 2008 I have travelled three times to North Thailand. The first trip we inspected the site and visited construction materials factories; we also inspected a site for a future medical clinic (possible future project!). The second trip we inspected the school footings and floor, strengthened the floor slab to wall connections, and examined existing North Thailand buildings. The third trip I inspected the school for consistency with the design in preparation for occupancy. My first travel with EWB was to villages along the SE coast of India where I helped surveyors measure and lay out the parcels of land for EWB's housing project, inspected some buildings, and offered the villagers suggestions for better sanitation.

**Any other thoughts about EWB?** EWB offers the unique experience of being able to get involved in all aspects of a project. You can even go do the construction yourself, and meet the people who you are helping! EWB projects can be very hands-on and personal. EWB has been such a rewarding & fulfilling experience that, after I retire, I'd like to work full-time with EWB as some sort of international liaison for various engineering projects. For pictures of my India & Thailand trips, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mcmenamin>.

### EWB-LA Outreach Activity Habitat for Humanity

Join members of EWB-LA for a day of volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.

Email Jeff Baumgardner at **outreach@ewb-la.org** to volunteer or for more information.

**When:** June 20, 2009 8am-2pm

**Where:** Monrovia, CA

educational events, organizing guest speakers and to plan chapter fundraising events. Contact Jeff (**outreach@ewb-la.org**) to learn more.

**Fundraising Committee:** Members are needed to help with chapter fundraising efforts. This could include writing grant proposals, seeking corporate sponsors and planning large fundraising events. Contact Nick (**fundraising@ewb-la.org**) to join this group.

**Website:** The EWB-LA website is currently undergoing a complete redesign. Volunteers are needed for content, aesthetics and coding. If you'd like to help out with this effort please contact David Jacobson (**president@ewb-la.org**).