# Southwest Section 02 December 2010 Meeting
by Rick Ashcroft



On Thursday, December 2nd, the Southwest Section held its first webcast meeting. The meeting was a joint SNAME, ASNE, and MTS event in Honolulu hosted by the University of Hawaii. The SNAME Student Section also attended via webcast, and a number of members in San Diego joined in the event. The geographic expanse of the Southwest Section (Las Vegas to Hawaii, from north of Los Angeles to the Mexican border) has made it impossible for us to involve all our membership face-to-face meetings. There have been meetings in Honolulu and San Diego, but we have not been able to directly join the two locations – until now. The subjects of the meeting were two student presentations from the University of Hawaii Ocean Resources Engineering Capstone Design Class: "North Shore Harbor Design", and "Wave Energy Feasibility in Hana, Maui". A GoToMeeting link was established, and the meeting opened with introductions of the primary Hawaiian participants by Todd Peltzer, SW Section Vice-Chair for Hawaii, followed by Zac Schramm, SW Section Chair leading introductions of the participants in San Diego. SNAME President Keith Michel was in San Diego, and spoke for a few minutes before turning the meeting over to the students.

The student presentations were well received, and due to the time difference, the San Diego participants were allowed to have their questions and answer session before the Hawaii participants broke for dinner. The ability to view a presentation and have real-time discussion of it was exactly what we hoped it would be, and we finally achieved a goal of having members of the same Section participating together even though they were physically separated by more than 2000 miles in space and 2 hours in time. The San Diego participants thought the student presentations were excellent and enjoyed the meeting in spite of the later than usual local time. Now that we have proven that webcasting meetings is both a viable and enjoyable way to link the widely dispersed areas of our Section, we expect that we will use this technology again to allow members at "remote" locations join in the technical presentations from any other. We encourage other Sections with similar geographic challenges to try webcasting meetings as a good way to involve members who would otherwise not be able to participate directly.