

Training News

A quarterly newsletter from the Northern California Laborers' Training Center Issue No. 50 • Summer 2004

Laborers establish new campus in West Sacramento

By Russell W. Snyder, Executive Director

Responding to rising demand for quality skills training, the Board of Trustees of the Northern California Laborers' Training & Retraining Trust Fund has moved forward to establish a satellite campus in West Sacramento.

The first of what could be multiple satellite campuses is taking shape in the Port of Sacramento, where the Training Fund has secured four acres of property and is creating a training facility to teach many of the 40 classes that are offered at the main campus in San Ramon.

"The location is ideal to serve the greater Sacramento region," said Trustee Doyle Radford, Business Manager of Laborers' Local 185. "It is centrally located. The easy access and industrial nature of the Port and its neighbors make it a perfect fit."

As is the case with the main Laborers' Training Center in San Ramon, the West Sacramento Campus will offer construction skills training by experienced instructors who are certified by the State of California and other oversight entities.

The classes are as varied as the skills possessed by Construction Craft Laborers. General construction classes that will be offered will include Asphalt Paving Techniques, Concrete Techniques, Traffic Control, Flagging, First Aid-CPR, Fundamentals of Construction



Photo by Bobby Pugh

Trustee Doyle Radford (center) welcomes the first Asphalt Paving Class to the West Sacramento Laborers' Training Center.

and Apprenticeship classes. Orientation on specialty equipment, such as skid-steer loaders and forklifts, will be available. Environmental remediation re-certification classes, such as Lead Removal, Asbestos Removal, and Hazardous Waste, also will be offered once the campus is fully operational.

The Laborers' Training & Retraining Trust Fund for Northern California serves 2,500 signatory contractors and 25,000 union members in 46 counties, from Fresno to the Oregon border. Last year nearly 5,000 Laborers were trained at San Ramon and via special classes requested by signatory contractors and held at various locations around the region. There is no charge to attend classes — the costs are covered by the hourly contributions made to the Training & Retraining Trust Fund.

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The caliber of the training is the best in the industry, with curriculum and instructors endorsed by the likes of the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA), the National Safety Council, the State of California Department of Industrial Relations, the State Department of Health Services and others. Substantial support in instructor and curriculum development is provided by a national partnership between the Laborers' International Union and the Associated General Contractors, known as Laborers-AGC.

Long-term, the Board of Trustees is looking to identify a site for training in the Fresno area, and possibly another location in the north State. The idea is to bring training services closer to where they are needed most and ensure a safe, skilled and productive workforce for signatory contractors today and in the future.

To sign up for any training class at San Ramon or West Sacramento, members are asked to consult the schedule in this newsletter and contact their Local Union. Contractors wishing to request a special class should contact Training Director Vic Macias at (925) 828-2513



Photo by Bobby Pugh

Local 185 members attend the first course in Asphalt Paving Techniques held at the West Sacramento campus.

and/or the Local Union Business Managers. For detailed descriptions of the classes offered by the Laborers' Training Center, visit our website at: www.norcalaborers.org and click on the "Training & Apprenticeship" tab to view important information. ■

Job opportunities at Training Center

The Laborers' Training Center is looking for experienced and energetic instructor candidates to train Construction Craft Laborers. The ideal candidates will have experience in the field in many areas under the Laborers' Master Agreement, which may include working in and around concrete, asphalt, hod carrying, forklifts, scaffolding, pipe, environmental remediation and traffic control.

Experience as a foreman or superintendent is a plus. Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively and absorb formal training and schooling is a must. Ability to communicate in Spanish is very desirable.

The prospective instructors must have a clear understanding of the construction industry and the role of the Construction Craft Laborer on the jobsite. This is a full-time position, and we offer a generous compensation package that includes health, vision, dental and retirement contributions. The successful

candidates must be or become a member of the Laborers' International Union of North America. The job may be based in San Ramon or the Sacramento area.

Please send a cover letter and résumé via U.S. Mail only to: Laborers' Training Center, 1001 Westside Drive, San Ramon, CA 94583; Attention: Ms. Chave Groh. Include in the submittal a one-page summary of how your qualifications and experience match up with the job duties. ■

For the record

Due to an editing oversight, an article in the spring issue of *Training News* about new training I.D. cards neglected to give proper credit to the staff of the Laborers-AGC Training and Education Fund for helping develop the card and database system now used in Northern California. ■

Air Track Drilling back by popular demand

By Russell W. Snyder, Executive Director

Greg Hemstock likes to tell the story of his first experience at the Laborers' Training Center 18 years ago. He took a class in Air Track Drilling "and then went out and made a pile of money."

After a long and successful career in the field, Hemstock returned to the Training Center last year as an instructor and is looking forward to training other Laborers in the specialized craft.

Hemstock jokes that an Air Track Drilling rig is "basically a large jackhammer on tracks," but he



Trainees take turns to learn how to use an Air Track Drilling rig.

concedes that safe operation of such complex and expensive equipment is no laughing matter.

For that reason, Air Track Drilling training at the Laborers' Training Center is serious business. Trainees must first demonstrate their ability to understand the concept of how jackhammers work



Instructor, Greg Hemstock, (center) and proud students of the Air Track Drilling class held in May in San Ramon.

and the basics of drilling holes. Orientation on working with and around explosives is also addressed, although the training does not use live explosives.

Once trainees have proven their aptitude, then they embark on an intensive, three-week training course where they will get hands-on experience on three different types of Air Track Drilling rigs. Each type of rig presents its own challenges, Hemstock says, which is why it is imperative that trainees are exposed to different types of machines. For example, some newer models are not powered by air, but rather hydraulic fluid.

Trainees who graduate from this class will be ready to join a drilling crew. Air Track Drilling is commonly used in heavy and highway construction, mining and rock quarries. That type of work is projected to be on the upswing in the near future.

Other aspects of the Air Track Drilling class include "high-scaling," where trainees will learn how to safely scale and work on rock faces.

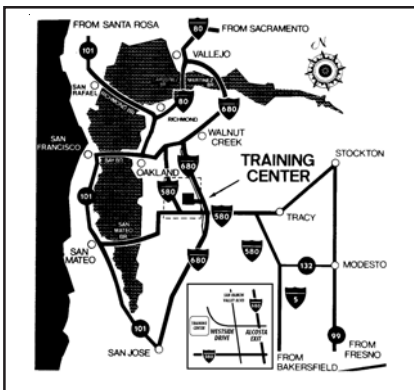
For additional information on Air Track Drilling, contact the Laborers' Training Center in San Ramon at (925) 828-2513. To sign up for an Air Track Drilling course, consult the training schedule in this newsletter and contact your local union. ■

TERENCE J. O'SULLIVAN LABORERS' TRAINING CENTER

Schedule of Courses (Horario de Clases)

July 5 - October 1, 2004

COURSES	DATES	LENGTH	PREREQUISITE
APPRENTICESHIP Apprenticeship Initial Apprenticeship Initial Apprenticeship Initial Apprenticeship Initial	July 12 - July 23 August 2 - August 13 August 16 - August 27 September 13 - September 24	2 Weeks 2 Weeks 2 Weeks 2 Weeks	Registered Apprentices Registered Apprentices Registered Apprentices Registered Apprentices
CONSTRUCTION Concrete Techniques Basic Air Track Drilling Orientation Basic Air Track Drilling Orientation Shotcrete Techniques Shotcrete Techniques Asphalt Paving Techniques Concrete Core Drilling & Saw Cutting Plaster Tender/Hod Carrier Fundamentals of Construction	July 12 - July 23 July 12 - July 16 August 16 - August 20 July 26 - August 6 September 13 - September 24 August 16 - August 27 July 26 - July 27 August 30 - September 17 September 13 - September 24	2 Weeks 1 Week 1 Week 2 Weeks 2 Weeks 2 Weeks 2 Days 3 Weeks 2 Weeks	N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A
WELDING MIG & TIG Welding Basic Arc Welding Advanced Arc Welding	August 2 - August 13 August 16 - September 24 August 16 - September 24	2 Weeks 6 Weeks 6 Weeks	1000 hours worked 1000 hours worked 2000 hours worked**
SPECIAL First Aid/CPR First Aid/CPR First Aid/CPR Forklift Certification Oxy Torch Cutting Oxy Torch Cutting Scaffold User Scaffold User OSHA 500	July 6, July 26 & July 30 August 9, August 13 & August 23 September 3, 10, 29 & October 1 July 7, September 8 & Sept. 10 July 8, July 29, August 9 September 9, 28 & October 1 July 9 & August 10 September 2 & September 10 August 30 - August 31	1 Day Each 1 Day Each 1 Day Each 1 Day Each 1 Day Each 1 Day Each 1 Day Each 1 Day Each 2 Days	N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A
** Also requires a Basic Welding Certificate from the Laborers' Training Center			



Directions to the San Ramon Training Center:

Take the **ALCOSTA BOULEVARD WEST** exit off Highway 680 (see map at left). After you cross the intersection at San Ramon Valley Boulevard, the road changes to Westside Drive. Stay in the straight-ahead lane and look on your left for the large sign and gate leading to the Training Center. Proceed up the hill to the Administration building (on the left).

Our address is 1001 Westside Drive, San Ramon, California 94583-4098. Our telephone is (925) 828-2513; FAX is (925) 828-6142; E-mail: training@norcalaborers.org.

TERENCE J. O'SULLIVAN LABORERS' TRAINING CENTER
Schedule of Courses (Horario de Clases)
July 5 - October 1, 2004

COURSES	DATES	LENGTH	PREREQUISITE
SPECIAL			
Forklift Certification	July 8 - 9 & July 15 - 16	2 Days Each	Experience Required
Forklift Certification	July 28 - 29 & August 12 - 13	2 Days Each	Experience Required
Forklift Orientation	August 26 - 27 & September 29-30	2 Days Each	Experience Required
Competent Person	July 6 & September 7	1 Day Each	Experience Required
Aerial Work Platforms	July 13 - July 14	2 Days	N/A
Aerial Work Platforms	July 27 - July 28	2 Days	N/A
Aerial Work Platforms	August 10 - August 11	2 Days	N/A
Aerial Work Platforms	August 24 - August 25	2 Days	N/A
Aerial Work Platforms	September 27 - September 28	2 Days	N/A
Flagger Certification	July 30, September 1, 7, 27 & 30	1 Day	N/A
Flagger Certification (Spanish)	August 4, 12 & September 8	1 Day	N/A
Grade Checking	July 26 - July 30	1 Week	N/A
Mine Safety (MSHA) & First Aid/CPR	July 19 - July 23	1 Week	N/A
Mine Safety (MSHA) & First Aid/CPR	September 27 - October 1	1 Week	N/A
Forklift Orientation	July 19 - July 23	1 Week	Beginner
Skid-Steer Loader (Bobcat) Orientation	August 9 - August 13	1 Week	Beginner
Skid-Steer Loader (Bobcat) Orientation	September 27 - October 1	1 Week	Beginner
Rigging & Signaling	August 30 - September 3	1 Week	N/A
Traffic Control (Spanish/Español)	August 11 & September 9	1 Day Each	N/A
Traffic Control (English)	July 29 & August 30	1 Day Each	N/A
Confined Space	September 8	1 Day	N/A
ENVIRONMENTAL			
Lead Removal (Spanish/Español)	July 5 - 9 & July 26 - 30	1 Week Each	N/A
Lead Removal (English)	August 2 - August 6	1 Week	N/A
Lead Removal (Spanish/Español)	August 23 - August 27	1 Week	N/A
Lead Removal (English)	August 30 - September 3	1 Week	N/A
Lead Removal (Spanish/Español)	September 27 - October 1	1 Week	N/A
Lead Re-Certification (Spanish/Español)	September 7	1 Day	Valid Certificate
Lead Re-Certification (English)	September 9	1 Day	Valid Certificate
Asbestos Removal (Spanish/Español)	July 12 - July 16	1 Week	N/A
Asbestos Removal (English)	July 19 - July 23	1 Week	N/A
Asbestos Removal (Spanish/Español)	August 9 - August 13	1 Week	N/A
Asbestos Removal (English)	August 16 - August 20	1 Week	N/A
Asbestos Removal (Spanish/Español)	September 13 - September 17	1 Week	N/A
Asbestos Removal (English)	September 20 - September 24	1 Week	N/A
Asbestos Re-Certification (English)	September 7	1 Day	Valid Certificate
Asbestos Re-Certification (Spanish/Español)	September 10	1 Day	Valid Certificate
Hazardous Waste Removal	July 26 - July 30	1 Week	200 hours worked
Hazardous Waste Removal	September 27 - October 1	1 Week	200 hours worked
Hazardous Waste Re-Certification	August 2, August 5, August 31	1 Day Each	Valid Certificate
Hazardous Waste Re-Certification	September 7 & September 9	1 Day Each	Valid Certificate

LABORERS' TRAINING CENTER, WEST SACRAMENTO CAMPUS

Schedule of Courses (Horario de Clases)

July 5 - October 1, 2004

COURSES	DATES	LENGTH	PREREQUISITE
APPRENTICESHIP Apprenticeship Initial Apprenticeship Initial	July 26 - August 6 August 30 - September 10	2 Weeks 2 Weeks	Registered Apprentices Registered Apprentices
CONSTRUCTION Asphalt Paving Techniques Basic Air Track Drilling Orientation	August 2 - August 13 August 23 - August 27	2 Weeks 1 Week	N/A N/A
SPECIAL OSHA 500 Forklift Certification (English) Forklift Certification (English) Competent Person Traffic Control (English) Traffic Control (Spanish/Español) First Aid/CPR First Aid/CPR Scaffold User Flagging Certification (English) Flagging Certification (English) Flagging Certification (Spanish/Español) Rigging & Signaling Rigging & Signaling Aerial Work Platforms Aerial Work Platforms Grade Checking Forklift Orientation Forklift Orientation Confined Space Skid-Steer Loader (Bobcat) Skid-Steer Loader (Bobcat) Hazardous Waste Re-Certification	July 6 - July 7 July 8 - July 9 September 23 - September 24 July 12 July 13, August 12 & August 23 September 9 & September 21 July 14, August 9 & 27 September 10, 20 & 24 July 15 & August 26 July 16, August 13 & 25 September 2 & 7 September 22 July 19 - July 23 September 27 - October 1 August 10 - August 11 September 21 - September 22 August 16 - August 20 August 16 - August 20 September 27 - October 1 August 24 August 30 - September 1 September 13 - September 17 September 20 & September 23	2 Days 2 Days 2 Days 1 Day Each 1 Day Each 1 Day Each 1 Day Each 1 Day Each 1 Day Each 1 Day Each 1 Day Each 1 Day 1 Week 1 Week 2 Days 2 Days 1 Week 1 Week 1 Week 1 Day 3 Days 1 Week 1 Day Each	N/A Experience Required Experience Required Experience Required N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A Beginner Beginner N/A Intermediate Beginner Valid Certificate



Directions to the West Sacramento Training Center:

Take the **HARBOR BOULEVARD** exit off Interstate 80 (see map at left) towards Harbor Boulevard/Port of Sacramento. Continue on Harbor Boulevard for approximately 1/2 mile. Turn right on Industrial Boulevard. On Industrial Boulevard you will see a Laborers' Training Center sign on your left. Follow the signs to the Laborers' Training Center. Proceed to the rear of the Port of Sacramento, where you will see our offices.

Our official address is 2895 Industrial Boulevard, West Sacramento, CA 95691-3419. Our telephone number is (916) 375-0191; FAX is (916) 375-0227; E-mail: training@norcalaborers.org.

Spotlight on Apprentice Jim Hitchcock

By Valerie Eterovich, North Bay/North Coast Apprenticeship Field Coordinator

Jim Hitchcock graduated from high school in 2002 and worked part time as a waiter while attending classes in junior college. Upon hearing about the Laborers' Apprenticeship Program at a job fair, he realized that this was what he was waiting for — an opportunity to have a career, make great money, learn a trade, and have a future.

Jim enrolled in the initial Apprenticeship class at the



Apprentice Jim Hitchcock busy at work.

Laborers' Training Center in August 2003; and after completing the two-week course, he went to work for Ghilotti Construction Company. His first assignment was to work on the Cloverdale Improvements Project. There, Jim used his newly-acquired skills to set forms for sidewalks and work with asphalt. He also had the opportunity to do flagging, traffic control, set sprinklers and operate a Bobcat.

He says the most frustrating part of being an apprentice is the time spent on clean-up duty, but the most rewarding part is the money earned and the skills learned. Since joining the program, Jim has been able to pay his bills while putting some money away for the future. He even bought a new truck!

Jim believes that being a part of the program has taught him about being responsible, getting into a good routine, and establishing a good work ethic. The skills he continues to hone are life tools he will always have.

The best advice Jim has for new apprentices is "always be ready to work, do what you're asked to do, and always give 100 percent."

It has been my pleasure to have Jim as one of my apprentices; he listens and does what is needed to get through the program. It was very rewarding to hear from John Peretto, Jim's first Superintendent, that "Jim is the reason I come to work." He never says no, does what is asked of him, and he's always willing to learn." Keep up the good work, Jim.

The Apprenticeship Program is always accepting applications. If someone you know is interested in becoming part of our program, feel free to contact us at (925) 556-0858. ■

Veteran Instructor Carlos Moreno retires

Carlos Moreno, the longest-tenured Instructor at the Laborers' Training Center in San Ramon, who specialized in environmental remediation training, recently embarked on a well-deserved retirement.

Part of a well-known family of Laborers who have served the Union with distinction, Moreno announced his retirement in March. He brought a varied background when he joined the Laborers' Training Center in 1993 out of Local 304.

Moreno's passion was legendary, and his genuine concern for the welfare of his fellow Laborers made Moreno a popular instructor with trainees. He was also certified to teach virtually every class held at the Laborers' Training Center, setting the standard for versatility for instructors that came after him.

Moreno, who taught classes in both English and Spanish, was the first instructor to be certified by the

State of California as a Vocational Education Instructor, and in recognition of his achievement he was the first also honored with the title of "Senior Instructor."

Moreno educated more trainees than any other instructor in the history of the Fund, and his classes in Lead and Asbestos met the exacting standards of the State Department of Health Services and Department of Industrial Relations. ■



Senior Instructor Carlos Moreno



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Training News

Training News is published quarterly by the Laborers' Training and Retraining Trust Fund for Northern California. It is intended to provide information concerning training for members of the Laborers' International Union of Northern California and signatory contractors. Please submit your comments and/or suggestions by mail to Laborers' Training Center, 1001 Westside Drive, San Ramon, California 94583, or by telephone at (925) 828-2513, or by e-mail to training@norcalaborers.org.

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