

Minutes of SPG-NA Q1 2009 (28th March 2009), Houston

Fourteen members of Society of Petroleum Geophysicists North America Chapter (SPG-NA) met at Mantra Indian Restaurant in Katy, TX on March 28, 2009 between 12 – 2:30 p.m. The meeting was very upbeat and the members recognized the activities of SPG-NA. The members also agreed on continued efforts and initiatives of SPG-NA to build up a strong geoscience community amongst practitioners of the profession in India and abroad. During the meeting the fourteen members put in a total of \$390 (12 x \$30 + 2 students x \$15). Of this amount \$227.50 was used to defray the costs of buffet lunch and \$162.50 has been put aside in the SPGNA fund pot.

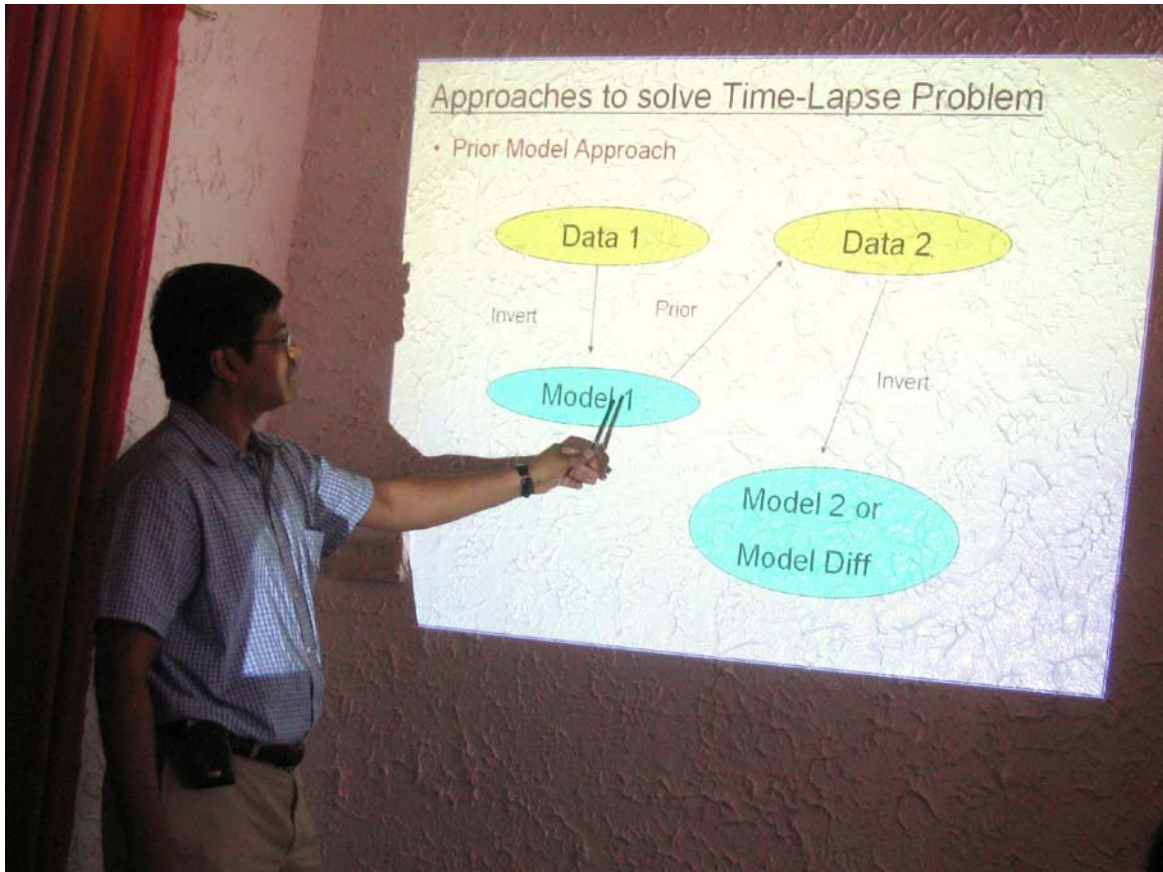


Picture 1: SPG-North American chapter members who attended the meeting.

Highlights of the discussion topics are outlined below:

Technical Presentation

There was an interesting technical presentation by Dr. Partha Routh from ConocoPhillips, Houston on “Strategies for time lapse inversion in reservoir monitoring.”



Picture 2: Dr. Partha Routh from ConocoPhillips presenting a seminar on “Strategies for Time Lapse Inversion in Reservoir Monitoring.”

Meeting Venue and Members

There were several suggestions that the meetings of SPG-NA not only be held in restaurants but may be in other locations in organizations and/or universities. Elapavuluri Pavan Kumar suggested that the meeting could be held in a room with proper meeting facilities on WesternGeco campus in Houston. He agreed to check on such availabilities for future. However, it was pointed out that in such an occasion the meeting may be held in the evening on a weekday and there could be problems arising from security clearances for all attendees and having food catered at the venue. Sushanta Bose suggested that another potential venue could be a room at the University of Houston/Rice University.

Although the name of our organization suggests that it is a group of geophysicists, a suggestion was put forward to open up the membership of the group to “geoscientists” as a whole so as to increase the membership of the group and allow it to grow faster. Holding joint meetings once in a while with AAPG sections was also proposed.

A suggestion was made that the meeting can occasionally be held in Houston/Austin with a form of family get-together involved in it. This will foster a more family aspect within SPG-NA.

A suggestion was also made that SPG-NA hold another meeting in the second quarter before SEG Annual Meeting. The main reason for this was to include the many interns that come to Houston during the summer at various companies/universities. Additionally, the momentum of SPG-NA activities will better continue that way.

Annual Membership Dues

It was unanimously agreed that we need some kind of monetary pot belonging to the group that will allow defraying the costs of the organization’s meetings and other professional activities. Collecting an annual membership fee was therefore agreed upon, however, instead of calling it a membership fee it was suggested that it be called a “donation”. This would allow members and/or companies even to donate and use it for tax breaks, thereby motivating enrollments. It was suggested that SPG-NA provide some kind of estimate of annual costs incurred/potentially incurred and circulate that within the group which will allow for setting an annual donation amount. Consideration for students while requesting donations was also suggested.

Annual Newsletter

It was agreed upon by all the attending members that an annual newsletter should be published. It was however suggested that it be first published electronically as a pdf file and then may be printed for future requesting companies to advertise in it once the organization grows a bit more.

Registering SPG-NA as non-profit

It was agreed that SPG-NA should be registered as a non-profit organization with tax exempt status and have a bank account to keep the collected money. Madhav Vyas had some ideas and done some research on the aspect so it was best to have Madhav work in conjunction with Ranjan and come up with some action plan to pursue the matter. It was recognized that being under the SEG umbrella was probably easier and more convenient.

Active participation/presence in SPG-2010

Everyone agreed that SPG-NA should have a strong presence and provide active participation in SPG-2010. It was strongly suggested that members who have plans to visit India during SPG-2010 timeframe make a good attempt to attend SPG-2010. A suggestion was also made to put up a booth of SPG-NA in SPG-2010. Dr. Mrinal Sen agreed to find out more about the booth matter in SPG-2010.

It was also brought up that the hotels to stay in during SPG-2010 in Hyderabad are extremely costly, so an option could be to stay at National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) guest house because there is transportation from there to the meeting venue sponsored by NGRI and the guest house is way cheaper. However, the guest house fills up fast. So people planning to attend SPG-2010 should plan early. Ravi Prakash Srivastava (Scientist at NGRI, currently visiting UT-Austin and present at this meeting) agreed to help out on this matter. Those who want to pursue the NGRI guest house option should contact him at the earliest convenience.

Research Workshop

Drs. Mrinal Sen and Partha Routh are members of the SEG Research Workshop organizing committee. Therefore, a proposal was put forward for a research workshop in India. SPG India can potentially provide logistical support. Good ideas on the matter were requested from interested members. For additional information, please contact either Dr. Sen or Dr. Routh.

Wikipedia Page

Dr. Partha Routh suggested that SPG-NA create a Wikipedia page about itself and promoting Indian geophysics and other technical matters/aspects. An example was put forward such as the technical matters related to sub-basalt imaging.

Publications in “Geohorizons” journal

Attending members agreed to promote technical publications in SPG India’s journal Geohorizons. Several members agreed to submit a technical article to the upcoming issue of Geohorizons. It was also suggested that in such an event, SPG India can publish a special SPG-NA issue of Geohorizons. Please submit your papers to spgnam@gmail.com by May 15, 2009 to be considered for this issue of Geohorizons.

Contact information: For question and comments please write to spgnam@gmail.com and visit our web www.spgnorthamerica.org.

Minutes were recorded and prepared by Abhijit Gangopadhyay.