

Minutes of SPG-NA Q2 2009 (July 25), University of Houston

Nineteen members of Society of Petroleum Geophysicists North America Chapter (SPGNA) met at the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Houston on July 25, 2009 between 12 – 2:30 p.m. The meeting was very upbeat and interactive. The members agreed on continued efforts and initiatives of SPGNA to build up a strong geoscience community amongst practitioners of the profession in India and abroad. During the meeting the nineteen attendees put in a total of \$275 (12x\$20 + 7 studentsx\$5). Of this amount \$109.62 was used to defray the costs of pizza and soda lunch and \$165.38 has been put aside in the SPGNA fund pot.

The SPGNA fund now stands at \$328.23.



Picture 1: SPG-North American chapter members who attended the meeting at the main campus of University of Houston, Houston, Texas.

Notable aspects of the meeting:

(1) In the Q1 meeting, it was proposed that we hold a Q2 meeting so as to attract students who visit Houston during this time of the year for their internships at various oil and gas companies. **It is worth noting that we have succeeded in this endeavor and during the Q2 meeting we had 7 students in attendance.**

(2) Also in the Q1 meeting it was proposed that we try to hold these meetings at university/company venues as opposed to only restaurants. **With the initiative of SPGNA member, Sushanta Bose, and good coordination with current University of Houston students, we were able to hold this meeting in a reading room of the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Houston.**

Technical Presentation

There was an interesting technical presentation by Dr. Mrinal Sen from the University of Texas at Austin on “Shale gas prospectivity.” The technical talk was followed by good discussions.

Highlights of the discussion topics during the meeting are outlined below:

Effective inclusion of Geologist colleagues/members

A good number of SPGNA members are geologists by profession. Therefore, a proposal was put forward to devise ways to effectively include them in the group’s activities (technical and otherwise). Two ideas were put forward:

- (1) Change the name of the organization to “Society of Petroleum Geoscientists” to make everyone feel included and have technical talks doing justice to both disciplines
- (2) Hold joint meetings with the AAPG (American Association of Petroleum Geologists) chapter/s

A formal consensus decision was not reached on the matter but the ideas are up for more discussion.

Series of talks/Family picnic

A proposal was made that occasionally (may be once a year) longer time frame meetings may be held along the lines of a small conference where a series of talks can be presented on one or more “hot” topic/s in the industry. These could be organized in a way that a family picnic can be done simultaneously such that spouses and children can be included.

This discussion has to be thought about more because it will require more involvement and planning.

Annual Newsletter/SPGNA poster at SPG-2010

A start-up SPGNA annual newsletter prepared by Dhananjay and Ranjan was circulated among the members for review and suggestions. The attendees appreciated the efforts although no new ideas were proposed. It was mentioned though that any write-ups/discussions from any member would be appreciated and must be forwarded to Dhananjay for inclusion in the newsletter.

The same request holds for the poster that will be put up at SPG-2010. It appears though that involvement in SPG-2010 preparations will be more from members who will actually attend the conference in Hyderabad during February 2010. The web page of the conference was put up for display and attendance urged. Once again everyone agreed that SPG-NA should have a strong presence and actively participate 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.

Reminder - 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. During the Q1 meeting, Ravi Prakash Srivastava (Scientist at NGRI) agreed to help out on this matter. Those who want to pursue the NGRI guest house option should contact him at the earliest convenience.

Registering SPGNA as non-profit

The idea to register SPGNA formally, came up again in this meeting in a big way. It almost has now become a necessity and matter of convenience in many respects. Madhav Vyas will accelerate the efforts to find out how to do this, and subsequently action will be taken. A review on this matter may be done at the next meeting. Official registration of the society will allow us to solicit industry donations.

Wikipedia Page

Pursuant to the suggestion at the Q1 meeting about create a SPGNA Wikipedia page that discusses the organization and promotes Indian geophysics and other technical matters/aspects. Pavan has taken up the responsibility to update this page as regularly as possible. Please submit ideas for this project.

Publications in “Geohorizon” journal

About 7-8 technical articles were received from SPGNA members for publication in “Geohorizons” for their SPGNA special issue. These are under review with coordination by Dr. Mrinal Sen. Members were urged to submit articles for publication in future and the webpage for the journal was displayed too.

Meeting Invitations

It was pointed out that few members had actually e-mailed before the Q2 meeting mentioning that they will attend. However, their RSVPs did not come through properly. Therefore, it was suggested that future meeting invitations may be sent using the “Evite” service where reminders are automatic and RSVPs are easily kept track of.

Financial Support for travel and attendance at SEG by ISM Faculty Member

SPGNA members are aware that a faculty member from Indian School of Mines University (ISMU) (Dr. Rima Chatterjee) is planning to attend SEG 2009 in Houston to present a paper and requires financial support for travel and registration. Members of SPGNA have actively participated in donating money for this cause and we thank everyone for their generosity. During the Q2 meeting several members put in their donation checks as pledged. To date we have a pledged amount of \$1320 and Dr. Satish Singh from IPGP France will provide the registration fees. Samik Sil will coordinate her stay in Houston in conjunction with other members. If any other member plans to donate please let Dhananjay Kumar or Abhijit Gangopadhyay know.

Next SPG-NA meeting

We look forward to a very productive and enjoyable meeting during SEG 2009. Imtiaz Ahmed will coordinate the restaurant reservation for that meeting and a notice will be circulated later on that matter.

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.