

Minutes of SPG-NA Q2 2010 Meeting at University of Houston

Seventeen members of Society of Petroleum Geophysicists North America Chapter (SPGNA), and one guest met at the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Houston on July 17, 2010 between 12 and 3 p.m. As always, the meeting was very vibrant and interactive. 5 student members were part of the total number of attendees. During the meeting the attendees put in a total of \$265 (12x\$20 + 5x\$5). Of this amount \$106.38 was used to defray the costs of pizza and soda lunch and \$158.62 has been put aside in the SPGNA fund.

The SPGNA fund now stands at \$919.12.

Notable aspects of the meeting:

Dr. Prajnajyoti Mazumdar from ExxonMobil presented a talk on “Shear wave sourced 3-D VSP imaging of tight gas sandstones in Rulison Field, Colorado”. The talk was very informative and spawned a lot of questions from the attendees. We thank Dr. Mazumdar for presenting this great talk. We look forward to such presentations in the future.

During this meeting we had a **special guest in attendance - Dr. Robert Stewart, Professor of Geophysics and Director of Allied Geophysical Laboratory at the University of Houston**. He has extensive interest in our organization’s activities and technical presentations and offered several suggestions on its functionality. He also generously contributed to our student travel support program.

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

SPGNA Scholarship Fund

We drew attention of the attendees to the fact that 3 students from India who have accepted papers at the upcoming Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) Annual conference in Denver, Colorado, U.S.A., have requested financial support from SPGNA to help with their travel and subsistence expenses to come and present their papers. All the students are in the geophysics graduate program at Indian School of Mines University. SPGNA has requested these students to formally apply for funding to other more established sources such as SEG, and SPG India. SPGNA is also requesting its members to generously contribute to help this cause as far as possible. Many members have come forward with donations already. Thank you to all of them. **The fund currently stands at: \$475 with an additional \$400 promised (as of July 21, 2010)**. We encourage many other members to contribute towards this cause. Closer to the date of the conference, when availability of funds from other sources and ourselves will be more clear, SPGNA will make a decision on the choice of student/s to fund.

Professor Stewart also reminded the students that several companies such as Cairn Energy who have offices in India help students and employees regularly to attend such conferences.

Wikipedia Page and Social Networking

With the advent of Internet social networking, members suggested that we maintain a social networking page along with a Wikipedia page that exists already. SPGNA student members Dip Shankar Nanda and Tania Mukherjee volunteered to take up the responsibilities of creating and keeping these pages active and up to date. We thank them for their help and encourage members to actively contribute. A formal e-mail from these members will reach the group accepting this responsibility and starting up a discussion on how best to achieve this objective.

SPGNA Team selection for 2010 – 2012

A brief discussion was done on the upcoming new team selection for office bearers of SPGNA for the 2010 – 2012 years. Some members suggested that SPGNA posts on its webpage a list of positions that are being offered with brief descriptions of what the roles and responsibilities are for such positions. SPGNA encourages members to think about these positions and volunteer for them. The new team will be formally selected and announced at the SPGNA meeting in SEG 2010 at Denver.

Publications in “Geohorizon” journal

In line with our earlier special issue of SPGNA in “Geohorizons”, SPGNA encourages members to submit their research work to the journal for future publication. Ideas about any special endeavor in the future are solicited from the members too. Please write to the SPGNA President.

Advertisement

Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur is looking to hire few Assistant Professor Level Geophysics faculty whose qualifications include a Ph.D with 3 years of experience. Members are encouraged to apply for themselves or inform other potential candidates who may be interested to apply for these positions. It was pointed out during the meeting that the need for qualified faculty members was dire for the Geophysics program.

We look forward to a very productive and enjoyable SPGNA meeting at SEG-2010 in Denver.

Minutes were recorded and prepared by Abhijit Gangopadhyay.



Picture 1: Geoscientists gathered at SPG-North American chapter's 2010 Q2 meeting at University of Houston.