NOGS Events

February 6
NOGS Luncheon
Dale Bird, of Bird Geophysical, will present "Jurassic Tectonics of the Gulf of Mexico"
(See Page 3 for Abstract and Biography)

Contact the NOGS Office for reservations.
Please note the new e-mail address for the NOGS Office is info@nogs.org.

NEW LUNCHEON LOCATION
SHERATON HOTEL
Check with concierge or desk for location
Lunch served at 11:30am

ADMISSION:
with reservation .................................... $25.00
without reservation .................................. $30.00
Student Member with reservation ...... Free

February 11
NOGS Kickoff Party
7:30-10:30pm at Andrea's Restaurant in Metairie
(See back page for Announcement)

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President’s Message (continued from page 1)

part to rebuild NOGS and New Orleans by attending
the meeting and discussing geology and business
with your fellow NOGS members.

Like most everyone who sees the
devastation of Katrina, I wonder if there is anything I
can do to make a difference. The rebuilding is such a
monumental task that I find it hard to believe I can
make a difference. Then I remember the story of a man
who was walking down the beach after a storm. He
walked the beach dazed by the sight of thousands of
dying starfish washed ashore by the storm. He
noticed a little boy moving along the shoreline. The
boy was picking up the starfish and returning them to
the water where they could survive. Given the huge
number of stranded starfish, the man felt the boy’s
actions were useless and asked the boy if his good
deeds were really making a difference. As the boy set
another starfish in the water, he looked at the man and
said, “It makes a difference to this starfish”. The man
smiled and began returning starfish to the water.
Although the devastation of Katrina is immense,
please do your part to rebuild our great city…. make a
difference.

On a more personal note, but one with implications
for NOGS, I must announce that I have been transferred to
Houston and will resign as President of NOGS. As dictated by
the NOGS constitution, the Vice President, Scott Wainwright,
will assume my duties as President. I hope that I have the
chance to further express what New Orleans and NOGS has
meant to me and my family. For now, let me say that my
transfer has triggered a vast range of emotions including
gratitude for the opportunity to serve as President of NOGS,
sorrow for saying farewell to friends, excitement for the
challenges that lie ahead, and guilt for leaving a city in need.
As I think about leaving New Orleans after 15 years, I am
overcome by a tremendous sense of emptiness, but then I
recall the wonderful memories, and with those memories comes
happiness! Thanks and farewell.

Bret Hampton
Jurassic Tectonics of the Gulf of Mexico

Dale Bird
to present at the Luncheon on February 6, 2006

ABSTRACT

Interpreted hotspot tracks in the deepest part of the western Gulf of Mexico basin are identified from structural highs that were mapped by integrating seismic refraction and gravity data. A Late Jurassic mantle plume may have generated these tracks on the North American plate and Yucatan block as the Gulf of Mexico opened (ca. 150 Ma). The proposed hotspot tracks are associated with high-amplitude, distinctive gravity anomalies that provide the basis for a kinematic reconstruction that restores the western ends of the hotspot tracks with a 20 clockwise rotation of the Yucatan block, or almost one-half the total rotation required to open the Gulf of Mexico basin. The duration of track generation is estimated to have been about 8 to 10 My, or almost one-half the total time required to open the Gulf of Mexico basin.

Before extension related to seafloor spreading, extension of continental crust over a 10 to 12 My interval was the result of approximately 22 of counterclockwise rotation and crustal thinning. Autochthonous salt appears to be confined to the continental flanks of the hotspot tracks confirming that salt was deposited during continental extension and not after ocean floor had begun to form. The prominent gravity anomaly along the western boundary of the basin is thought to be produced by a marginal ridge, which was created along the ocean-continent transform boundary as the basin opened. The eastern flank of this marginal ridge, and the northernmost, easternmost, and southernmost terminations of the hotspot tracks, are interpreted to coincide with the oceanic-continental crustal boundary in the basin.

BIOGRAPHY

Dale Bird served in the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion, U.S. Army, from 1976 to 1979. In Houston his first job was with Aero Service (1981) as a data processor, and his experience since has included positions with Digicon Inc., Marathon Oil Company, World Geoscience, and Aerodat. In 1997 he established Bird Geophysical. While working, Dale has earned three degrees in geophysics from the University of Houston: BS in 1986, MS in 1991, and Ph.D. in 2004. He is a licensed Texas Professional Geoscientist and a member of several professional organizations including: AAPG, AGU, EAGE, GSA, GSH, HGS, SEG, UHGAA, and the National Eagle Scout Association (NESA).

THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 1, SO CALL THE NOGS OFFICE - TODAY!

“And Looking Ahead…”

The next luncheon will be March 6. Carl Fiduk of CGG Americas, Inc. will present "Extensional rafting: A new idea for structural control of shelf margin and slope facies deposition in Upper Wilcox strata of South Texas, northwestern onshore Gulf of Mexico." Contact the NOGS office at 561-8980 or e-mail annette@nogs.org to make your reservation.

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NOGS Kickoff Party

Happy Mardi Gras! Kickoff the Mardi Gras season with the hurricane-delayed NOGS Kickoff Party.

The party will be held at Andrea’s Restaurant, 3100 19th Street at Ridgelake in Metairie, Louisiana 70002, just off Causeway Blvd., Tel: (504) 834-8583, from 7:30 to 10:30 on Saturday night, February 11, 2006. It will feature a full line of hors d’oeuvres. You can find the menu on the Andrea’s web site http://www.andreasrestaurant.com/receptionpackages.html. See Reception package #1.

Reservations at $35 per person can be made through Annette Hudson at the NOGS office, telephone 561-8980 or e-mail annette@nogs.org. Two drinks, either alcoholic or non-alcoholic are included. Hey members, THEY CAN’T ALL BE FREE!!

Happy New Year!
Mike Fein

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