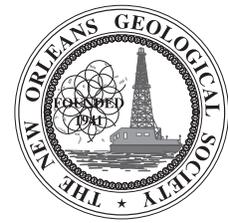


NOGS LOG

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Official Publication of the New Orleans Geological Society, Inc.

May 2007

Volume 47, Number 11

MAY AND JUNE ACTIVITIES

NOGS Events

May 7 - NOGS Luncheon

George Zemlicka of BHP Billiton will present "Depth Imaging of the Drake Structure in the Ultra-Deep Shelf Play of the Gulf of Mexico."

(See Page 7 for Abstract and Biography)

LE PAVILLON HOTEL

Check with concierge or front
desk for location

Lunch served at 11:30am

ADMISSION:

with reservation \$25.00

without reservation \$30.00

Student Member with reservation Free

May 21 - Former Presidents Luncheon

Le Pavillon Hotel, \$35.00 per person. Cocktails on NOGS, Prime Rib for Lunch.

Contact the NOGS office for reservations

June 4 - NOGS Luncheon

NOGS will host "Technomania" in place of a speaker presentation. Technomania will be NOGS' first exhibit hall function in celebration of our sponsors and advertisers.

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25 months and 30 days ago this well hit TD
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For more information, visit www.a2d.com/newrelease/



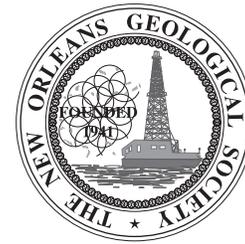
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 Sent to press on April 24, 2007.



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--- NOGS Contact List continued on page 20 ---

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from the President

Letting Go

A good friend in another city recently called me to discuss how to follow-up on a project that had just gone down in flames. My friend felt he had an obligation to distribute some data relevant to the project, despite the finality of the decision. Sometimes, when you get very close to a project, when you develop a passion for it, you become far more emotionally involved in it than is particularly healthy. We have all done that, and I remember it being called "married to the prospect". My advice to my friend was reasonably simple: fulfill the promise you made to the client in completing the work, but otherwise, let it go. Rather than trying to resurrect a project that had no chance of revival, to me it seemed far more important to move on to projects that had a better chance of future success. We could not afford to input more time and energy on something that was not accepted, but had to put future energy into creating value elsewhere.

Letting go is a tough thing to do. I have already written about some things I wanted to do this year as your president, but had to abandon for one reason or another: expanding the website, and rebuilding the NGOS, for

example. We always need to remember that there is only one paid person in NOGS, the rest of us do this in our "spare time". We have jobs, sometimes quite intense, and families who deserve the same intensity.

Maybe I am lucky that in my old age I have learned how to stop worrying about things I cannot control, and just to do the best I can on things upon which I can control my own destiny. As light as my W&T operational duties have been, it has given me the time to do regional work, get ready for the October lease sale, prepare prospects, and to work NOGS, GCAGS, and AAPG issues. I have been very fortunate to not have to deal with the issues many of you have had regarding employment. To say that we have all "been there", is an injustice to those still trying to feed families, and especially to those who have continued their professional commitments in spite of it. I hope that when you land, when the dust settles, that you can enjoy doing geology again, and with regard to the other stuff, life is too short: just relax and let it go.

Michael Fein

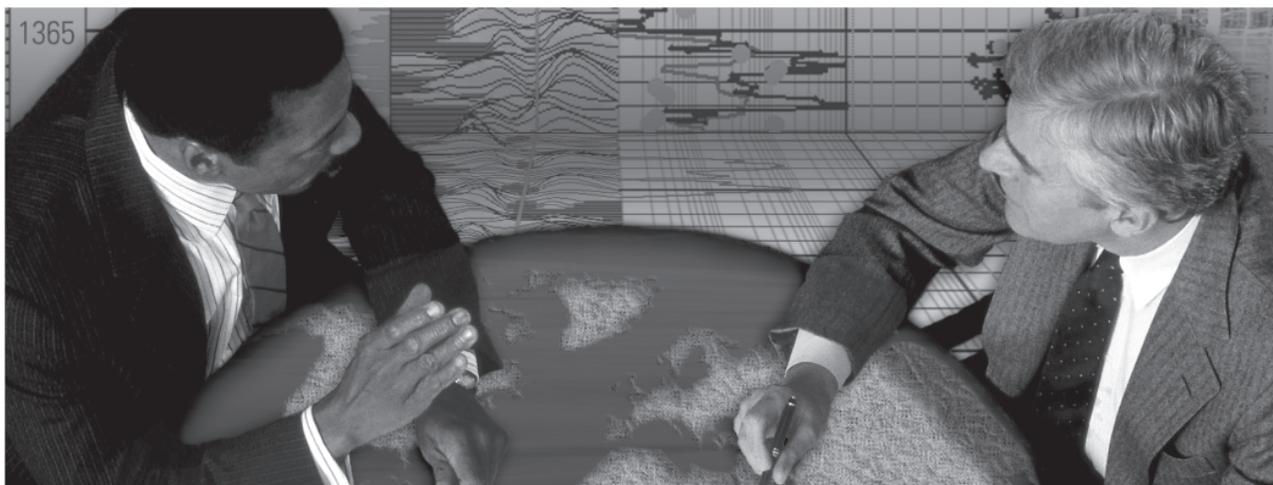
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May 7 Luncheon Presentation

Depth Imaging of the Drake Structure in the Ultra-Deep Shelf Play of the Gulf of Mexico

presented by

George Zemlicka

BHP Billiton Petroleum (Americas)

Original Co-authors:

George Zemlicka, Robert J. Bruce, Peter Gale, John E. G. Savage, and Karen L. Sherlock - BHP Billiton Petroleum (Americas) Inc.

Dong-Sheng Li, Mike Plumlee, and William J. Schneider - Fairfield Industries Inc.

Glen Denyer, Randol Haworth, and Jay Menard - Newfield Exploration Co.

Ricardo J. De Campos - Petrobras America Inc.

ABSTRACT

The offshore Gulf of Mexico Ultra-Deep Shelf Play has recently generated exploration interest due to numerous large undrilled structures, potential for huge gas reserves, and close proximity to existing infrastructure. The Miocene and Paleogene reservoir targets are updip and downdip of productive equivalents and often beneath shallower producing fields. A critical element of the play is to obtain accurate and high quality depth imaging of the prospect trap to: 1) validate the initial time structure interpretation; 2) refine prospect reserve estimates; and 3) high-grade exploration well locations. A common play trap type is an overall 3-way closure against a fault or salt weld, with a 4-way closure component.

The Drake Prospect, in the South Marsh Island protraction area, is representative of a typical Ultra-Deep Shelf prospect. The trap is interpreted as a 3-way against a steeply-dipping weld, with over 24,000 acres of structural closure. The primary target is the Paleogene, thickened

within the core of the structure, at drill depths of 30,000'. The mean reserves are estimated in excess of 1.7 TCF.

BHP Billiton, seismic contractor Fairfield, and partners Newfield and Petrobras have completed a proprietary pre-stack depth migration project, covering the Drake structure. The key to the high quality depth image was the construction of a detailed velocity model, with sediment velocities derived from tomography and migration velocity analysis, and inclusion of a number of salt bodies and velocity variations across a composite weld surface.

The current depth imaging results show the steeply-dipping to overturned trap-defining weld and the low reflectivity Lower Paleogene section in marked contrast to the high amplitude reflectors of the surrounding section. The depth imaging is currently being used to refine an exploration well location designed to test the Drake Prospect.

BIOGRAPHY

George Zemlicka has been a senior geoscientist on the Gulf of Mexico Exploration Team at BHP Billiton in Houston, Texas, since August, 2004. He worked previously for 16 years with Exxon and ExxonMobil in Houston, in Stavanger, Norway, and in Aberdeen,

Scotland, on various exploration and production assignments. He received his B.S. degree in geology from the University of Michigan in 1986 and his M.A. degree in geophysics from the University of Texas at Austin in 1988. George is a member of the AAPG and the SEG.

THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS MAY 2, SO CALL THE NOGS OFFICE - TODAY!

“And Looking Ahead...”

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BLAST FROM NOGS PAST

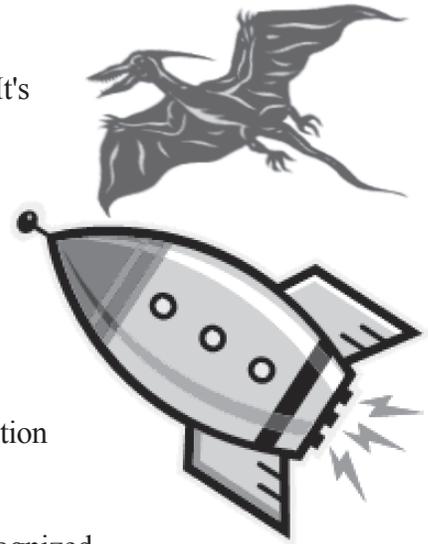
20 Years Ago (May 1987): From Richard A. Edmund's President's Column: "It's time for some serious talk about finances and how you and I are being affected by the current trends in the local economy. Your Board of Directors and committees have been wrestling with this problem for several months and new guidelines are in place for all NOGS functions, educational or social, to be on a "Break Even or Better" financial basis."

30 Years Ago (May 1977): Entertainment Chair Art Christy touted the success of the NOGS Crawfish Boil, which was held Friday, April 1 and "attended by 195 couples and one stag drunk, making it the largest NOGS entertainment function ever."

40 years Ago (May 1967): The President's Corner by H. Grady Collier Jr. recognized several committees including the publications committee for the soon to be finished Volume II, Oil and Gas Fields of SE Louisiana.

50 years Ago (May 1957): The single page NOGS newsletter (the NOGS LOG predecessor) announced that tickets were available for the Society's Picnic at Twin Oaks on May 11 and the Spring Dance at the Old Airport Lobby on May 18.

- Tim Piwowar



INFO TIDBITS

✎ **AAPG Digital Document Archives:** Among the many benefits of AAPG membership, one that I have found to be extremely useful is the digital document archive located on the AAPG website. The search capability allows a geoscientist immediate access to the historical AAPG publications with full search capability. Having moved jobs from a major oil company to an independent, I thought access to regional data might be a problem, but thanks to this service I am able to review new areas and focus in on the most relevant publications. It is possible to go from a level of minimal understanding of a particular area to being conversant within a single day. Because the information is mostly in pdf format, the original drafted quality of the images is retained, and can be used in the preparation of displays, such as Powerpoint posters, that allow the communication of regional and complex concepts to management and colleagues in a short amount of time. In this age of manpower shortage, the AAPG digital archive effectively allows a single geoscientist to access the collective work of thousands of past authors of AAPG Bulletin papers at minimal cost. Once in the AAPG website, all it takes is your AAPG member number and a password to access the archive.

The AAPG website is located at:
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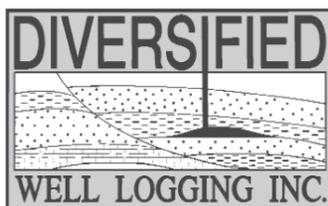
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GPA in major: _____, GPA overall: _____

What are your post graduation plans?

Do you have a financial need for the Scholarship? ____ Yes, ____ No.

If yes please explain your financial situation. Are you also working part-time or full-time? What other sources of funding do you have (scholarships, loans, STEP grant, etc.)? Note that this scholarship may be given to a student based solely on merit or based on a combination of merit and need.

¹ Should be either Geology, Geophysics, Petroleum Engineering or a closely related field

² Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior or Graduate Student (M.S or Ph.D.)

Please submit 3 personal recommendations along with this application. These may not be students.

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Scholarships shall be awarded annually at the Lafayette Chapter's September meeting. The Foundation Board of Trustees* shall make selection of the winning candidate during the summer prior to the scholarship awards from a listing of all applicants after communication with the chairman of the respective department of study of the winning applicant.

Applicants must be a currently enrolled upper division or graduate student in an earth science discipline of Geology, Geophysics, Petroleum Engineering or closely related field and have maintained a minimum 3.0 grade point average, both overall and in the major field of study, and which must be maintained to remain eligible for additional consideration. The applicant must submit a fully completed Foundation application with three (3) recommendations by the end of the spring semester of each year.

GUIDELINES

1. The applicant should have local ties to a Lafayette Chapter SIPES MEMBER whose home residence is in the Acadiana area and/or be a student of a university in the Acadiana area.
2. The applicant should have high moral and ethical conduct, be in financial need and demonstrate a genuine interest in his or her major field of study.
3. The applicant should include on application a statement of intent for post graduation study and or work. Applicants who demonstrate a desire to pursue a career related to their field of study will be preferred.

Please send to: SIPES
Attn. Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 52931
Lafayette, LA 70503

* Until a Foundation Board can be assembled and approved the current Scholarship Committee will serve in place of the Foundation board.

Super Science Saturday Recap



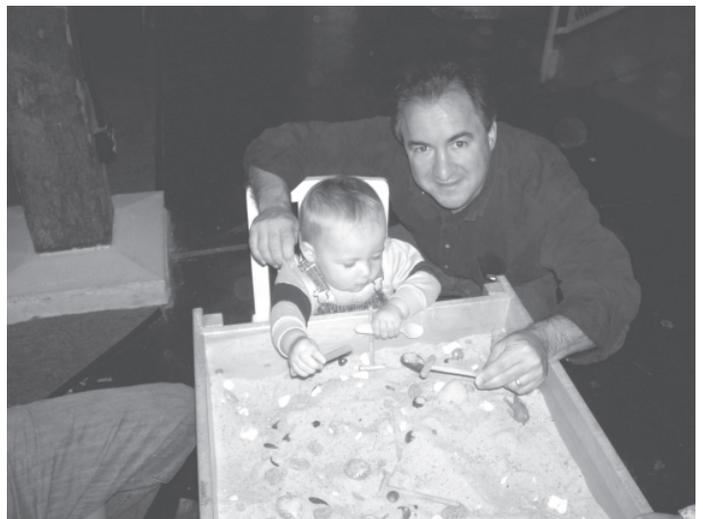
Saturday April 7th, NOGS hosted Super Science Saturday at the Louisiana Children's Museum after a year and a half absence following Hurricane Katrina. This outreach event was heavily attended despite being held on Easter weekend on the same day as the Crescent City Classic. Those who attended had the opportunity up close and personal to learn how to become a budding paleontologist or to drill for exploration and development wells in the ever popular oil finder game. Our volunteer base consisted of members of

NOGS, Southeastern Geophysical Society, Desk and Derrick, API Delta Chapter, Tulane, UNO and John Ehret High School students. It was a very engaging day with a lot of hands on activities for the kids and adults as well. We had many new volunteers who were joined by a core group of experienced regulars. Also several younger volunteers were given an excellent opportunity to teach and performed admirably. It was an exciting day and a great opportunity to show children that science can be fun!

I would like to thank our wonderful volunteers for making this event possible: David Lynch, John Dribus, Casey Mobley, Jennifer Connolly, Lisa Kennedy, Louis Willhoit, Karen Ohlsson and her daughter, Pat Netherland and her sister Nora, Jim, Claire and Meredith Zotkiewicz, Richard Mongan, Dave Cope (who gave out fossil samples), Alex Funnell, Will Conatser, Bill Whiting, Miranda Leigh Robbins, Justina Ann Horan, Eric Zimmerman, Anna Strimas, Daisy Pate, Karen and Taylor Benoit, Penne Rappold, Chuck Holman, Lisa Buckner (who also ran the Classic!), Art Johnson, Josie Nevitt, Bruce Sherman, Ed Picou, Mike Fein, Bob, Hillary and Helen Hafner, Al and Elizabeth Melillo, Duncan Goldthwaite, Shelly Gisevious, Nora Nicosia, Theresa Ohlsson, and Patrick Bergeon.

-Tom Bergeon









NOGS 2007-2008 CANDIDATES

For **PRESIDENT ELECT**

CLARK/WHITING



Reino Clark grew up in Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado and completed a B.S. in Geology in 1980 at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. After taking an M.S. in Geology at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado he went to work for Union Oil Company of California in their Oklahoma City office.

After working for ten years exploring in the Anadarko and Arkoma Basins he worked for three years in Unocal's Environmental Group in Beaumont Texas. In 1995 he moved to Lafayette, Louisiana and worked the onshore and offshore Gulf of Mexico for Spirit Energy until 2000. In the same year he took a position with SCA and moved to New Orleans to work at the ExxonMobil office for two years. In 2003 he went to work for the Minerals Management Service in New Orleans where he works today.

Reino lives in Mandeville, LA, where he and his wife Wendy have two children, one attending Fontainebleau High School, and one enrolled in the Geology and Geophysics Department at LSU.



Bill Whiting is a consulting Geologist with more than 35 years experience in the Gulf Coast Area. Born and raised in Albion Michigan along the Albion-Scipio Trend he had an early exposure to the Oil and Gas Industry. While in college schooling for his MS degree, he worked weekends for a Consulting Geologist in Ohio on the

“Trempealeau Trend” He obtained his BS Degree with honor in 1963 and his MS Degree with an overall grade point of 3.8 in 1965, both in Geology from Michigan State University.

In 1963, Bill began a 27-year career with Chevron Oil Corporation starting as a development geologist in the Jackson, Mississippi office with assignments in the Mississippi and North Louisiana Interior Salt Basins. In 1969 he was transferred to the New Orleans Office and held several positions in the Exploration and Production Divisions both onshore and offshore. He was a District Development Supervisor and Operations Geologist on the Region's Staff.

He has been a member of NOGS since 1970, the AAPG since 1969, GSA, SEG associate and is a Registered Professional Geologist #435 in the State of Mississippi. NOGS activities have included the Awards and Field Trip Committees, and a By-laws ad-hoc committee. He was chairman of the Ballot committee 2000-01. Bill served as Treasurer 2000-01 and a Memorial Foundation Trustee 2001-02. He served as Vice-President 2002-2003 and a Memorial Foundation Trustee 2003-05. He also is a Director of NOGS 2004-2007 and an AAPG Delegate through 2009.

For **SECRETARY**

RAPPOLD/ROONEY



Penne Rappold received a BS degree in geology from the University of New Orleans and has spent the last 29 years working both Exploration and Production projects in the offshore Gulf of Mexico for Shell E&P. After retiring from Shell in 1999, Penne began geologic consulting work and is currently assessing redevelopment

opportunities in several deepwater fields for Shell. Professional memberships include AAPG and NOGS with participation on the Continuing Education Committee and currently Membership Committee Chairman.



Carol Rooney is a Geologist with 14 years experience in the Gulf Coast Offshore Area. Carol was born in New Orleans, raised in Metairie, and graduated from Archbishop Chapelle High School, Loyola University (1985, B.S. Geology, Cum Laude), and Indiana University (1988, M.S. Geology). Carol began

her professional career in 1988 as an Associate Geologist for Texaco, Inc. Carol left Texaco in 1994 and joined Landmark Graphics Corporation as an Onsite Consultant, primarily at Amoco in New Orleans. In 1999, Carol opted to leave Landmark in order to remain in New Orleans, and worked as an Independent Landmark Consultant for Dominion E&P until December 2002. From that point forward, Carol has been a full time Mother, but has remained an active member of NOGS, serving for the past year as an AAPG Delegate.

NOGS 2007-2008 CANDIDATES

For VICE PRESIDENT

BALCER/ROONEY



Dave Balcer received a BS (1978) and an MS (1980) in Geology from The Ohio State University. He joined Chevron (New Orleans) in 1980 and has enjoyed both asset development and exploration assignments onshore and offshore Gulf of Mexico. He is currently an exploration geologist with Chevron focusing on the eastern Gulf of Mexico

Mesozoic trend and regional studies in the central gulf area.

Dave has been a member of NOGS and AAPG since 1980. He served as the NOGS Treasurer during 2005 -2006. He is presently an AAPG delegate (2009), Trustee of the NOGS Memorial Fund (2009) and member of the NOGS Finance and Audit Committee. When NOGS hosted the 1998 GCAGS Convention in New Orleans, he volunteered to coordinate the Tobin Theater. Wanting to do something different, he replaced the Tobin Theater with a “virtual reality” visualization exhibit hosted by the University of Houston. This departure from the traditional Tobin Theater was well received and duplicated at subsequent conventions.



Robert Rooney is a geoscientist with CLK Energy in New Orleans. Before joining CLK, he was a Staff Geologist with Shell E&P - Offshore Exploration, from 1997 to 2005. Robert has also worked as a geologist for Freeport Sulphur Company, and has conducted exploration field studies on South Louisiana salt domes as an

independent consultant. He has been employed with Dresser Industries, Reservoirs, Inc., Chemfix Technologies, and the Minerals Management Service as a Student Aide. Born in New Orleans he attended Archbishop Rummel High School, and the University of New Orleans where he received his Bachelor of Science in Earth Sciences in 1986.

Robert has served as an AAPG delegate for NOGS in 2002-2004, was Editor-elect for 2005-2006, and is currently the NOGS Editor for 2006-2007. Robert has prepared the Info-tidbits column for the NOGS log since 2005, and has given technical presentations at monthly luncheons for NOGS, and the Lafayette Geological Society. He was also author of a presentation at the 2005 GCAGS Convention in New Orleans which was published in the GCAGS transactions. Robert is an active member of NOGS, AAPG, and HGS. If elected as NOGS Vice President, Robert intends to design the NOGS Luncheon technical program to include more than half of the luncheon topics on exploration case studies and regional studies with an emphasis on the Gulf of Mexico, the balance will include talks related to Coastal issues, and at least one presentation from a local industry leader.

For TREASURER

COPE/MOBLEY



J. David (Dave) Cope holds a B.A. in Physics (Geophysics Area Option) from Rice University as a '78 graduate. He began his career in oilfield service with Schlumberger's Belle Chasse Offshore District, followed by a turn with CRC Wireline. In 1981, he became a geophysicist, first with Getty Oil/Texaco, then ODECO/

Murphy here in New Orleans, until Katrina forced his family (among many) away for a while. A year ago he accepted a position as a geologist with Taylor Energy Company LLC, bringing his family back home. Professional affiliations include SEG, SGS, and SPWLA in addition to NOGS. He is currently serving as Treasurer and Field Trip Chairman for the Gem and Mineral Society of Louisiana, Inc.



Casey R. Mobley is currently employed with Chevron as an Exploration Geologist working in the deep gas trend of the GOM north-central shelf. He has nearly two years of service with Chevron. Prior to his employment, Casey successfully completed the Master's degree program in Geology at the University of New

Orleans, graduating in May of 2005. Casey also holds a Bachelor's degree in Geology from the University of Kentucky. Casey is married with three children.

NOGS 2007-2008 CANDIDATES

For **DIRECTOR**

LEDET/REITER



Michael Ledet is an independent geologist. He has held positions as an exploration geologist for Getty Oil Company, Odeco Oil and Gas, Consolidated Natural Gas and their successors. Since becoming a member of The New Orleans Geological Society in 1981, he has served on several committees and as Secretary, Vice President, President-Elect and President. Mike

has been a member of the AAPG House of Delegates, the NOGS Memorial Foundation and served as Technical Chairman of the South Louisiana Onshore Exploration Symposium and as a Vice-Chairman for the 2005 GCAGS Convention. He has been awarded the NOGS President's Award, the NOGS Distinguished Service Award and an Honorary Life Membership in NOGS. Mike is an active member of GSA, AAPG and HGS. He attended Nicholls State University and The University of New Orleans.



David E. Reiter graduated from the University of New Mexico in 1980 with an M.S. in Geology. He began his career with Shell Oil Co. in New Orleans as onshore exploration geologist. In 1984, he joined ODECO Oil & Gas (now Murphy E&P Co.) as exploration geologist working primarily the central offshore Louisiana shelf area. He later moved into development geology

with responsibility for several GOM shelf and deepwater fields. In 2005, Mr. Reiter joined Dominion Exploration and Production Company and is currently Senior Staff Geologist in their GOM Shelf Exploration Group.

David has been an active member of NOGS for the past 23 years. He has served as NOGS Best Paper Committee Chairman for the past 14 years. Mr. Reiter has served as a trustee of the NOGS Memorial Foundation Board and is currently a member of the NOGS Nominating Committee. He served as Co-Chairman of the 1996 SPWLA International Symposium, Poster Session Chairman of the 1997 GCAGS Convention, Golf Tournament Chairman for the 2000 AAPG Convention, and Judging Chairman for the ill-fated 2005 GCAGS convention in New Orleans. He was past V.P.-Public Relations and Treasurer of the SPWLA New Orleans Chapter and is currently serving as its V.P.-Membership. He is an active member of NOGS, AAPG, SPWLA, and SEG.

For **EDITOR-ELECT**

MINER



Mike Miner was born and raised in New Orleans and has recently completed his Ph.D. in Geology at the University of New Orleans. He received a B.S. in Geology and an M.S. in Engineering Geology from The University of Mississippi. He is currently a Research Associate with the UNO Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences (PIES), where he is a Chief Scientist on the Statewide Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) in association with the U.S. Geological Survey, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Other projects that he is currently involved with include Hurricane Katrina/Rita impacts on tidal inlets and barrier islands in Louisiana, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service study to predict the resilience of the Chandeleur Island chain as a function of restoration options, and a Holocene stratigraphic framework study of the Northern Gulf of Mexico in association

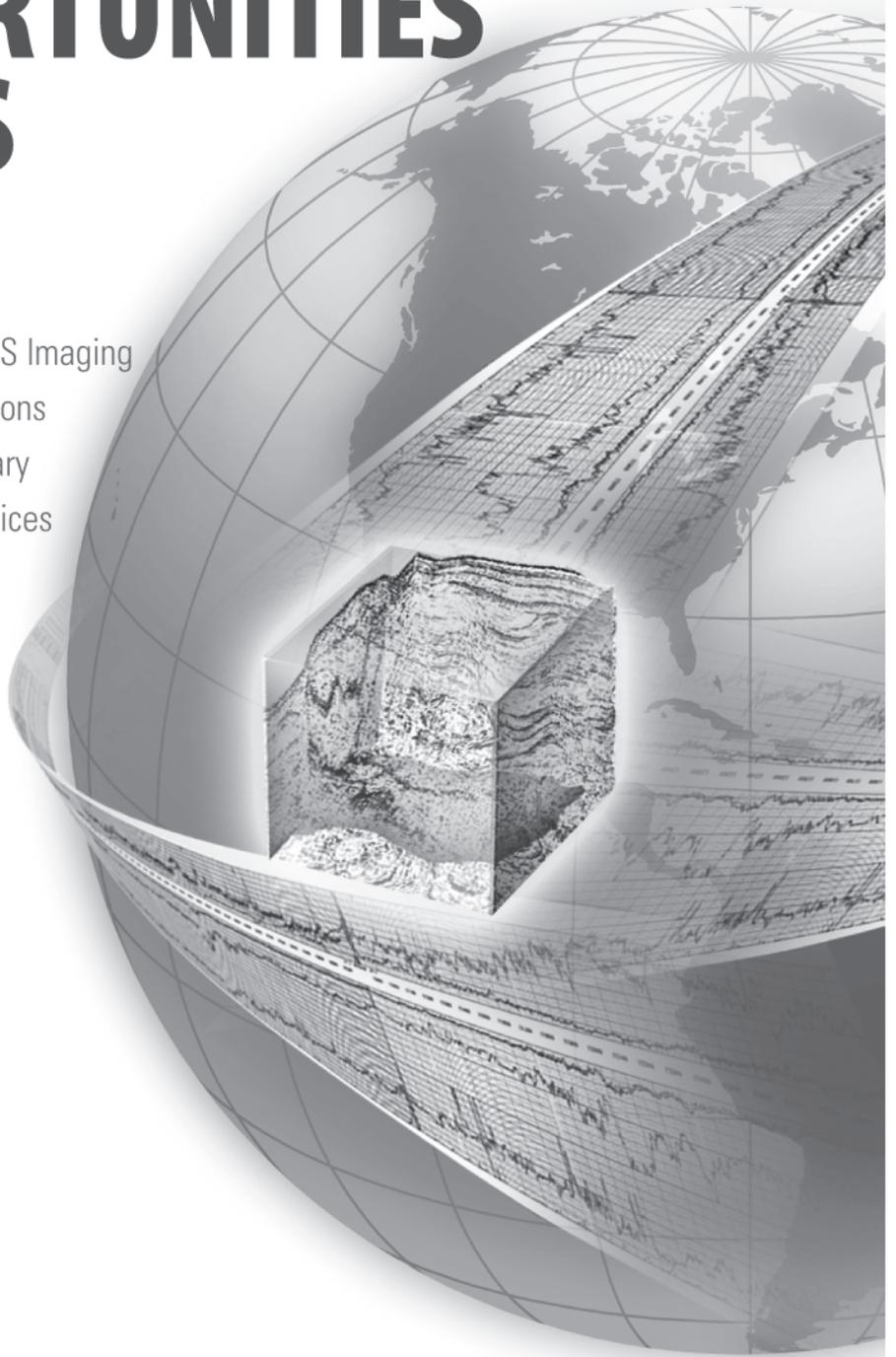
with the U.S. Geological Survey.

Mike is a member of the Society for Sedimentary Research (SEPM), Geological Society of America, International Association of Sedimentologists, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Coastal Education and Research Foundation.

-Officer candidate biographies edited by Tim Piwowar

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--- continued from page 3 ---

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2009	William Whiting	Consultant	504-947-8495	bootscon@aol.com
2009(a)	Nancye Dawers	Tulane University	504-862-3200	ndawers@tulane.edu
2009(a)	David Cooke	MMS	504-736-2609	david.cooke@mms.gov



NOGS Membership News & Information

This is your page. We would like to fill it with your news. In addition to professional news from our members; e.g., promotions, transfers, moves, new employer, etc., we also welcome your success stories. Please e-mail items to log@nogs.org.

The 2007 Deepwater Symposium is coming!!

It needs volunteer NOGS help. Please call Tom Hudson at 504-592-7163 or email tom.hudson@chevron.com

New NOGS Members March 2007

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NOGS FINDS WINNERS AT 2007 SCIENCE FAIR

On March 15, 2007, the Awards Committee judged the Earth Science and related projects at the Region 9 Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair, held at the First Baptist Church on Canal Boulevard. Judges joining me for the event this year were Monte Shalett (Marine Properties/Berkshire Exploration), Art Johnson (Hydrate Energy), and Eric Zimmermann (Dominion). Also joining us for the category judging was Lisa Kennedy (MMS). NOGS thanks our management and clients for their support in allowing our participation.

The Fair itself had only 138 projects, but that was 138 more than last year. There were not a large number of earth science exhibits, but the quality was excellent. There were, as you would imagine, many studies related to the effects of the storm, some of which were quite innovative and award winning.

Five of this year's six winners were from parochial schools. There were four male and two female winners. The projects dealt with the topics of soils, crystallography, and flooding. The lanthanide project which you will see May 7th is the first pure geologic study, in my 25 years of judging, ever to win the Grand Sweepstakes at Region 9. Jordan Badeaux and his teacher from John Curtis, Ms. Cathy Boucvalt, will be going to New Mexico to represent New Orleans in May at the International Fair. Ms. Boucvalt also had two other of our six NOGS award winners

NOGS will be inviting the two first-place winners and their teachers to the May 7th luncheon. Be sure to come over and congratulate these high achievers with us at that time.

Michael N. Fein
Chairman
Awards Committee

Junior Division

1st Place, \$100
Charles Mentz
Christian Brothers
Title: Soils: Composition, Compaction and Strength
Teacher: Brother Konersman

2nd Place, \$75
Erica Murret
VC Haynes Middle School
Title: Does Storm Surge Affect Salinity in Lake Pontchartrain?
Teacher: Lynda Paddock

3rd Place, \$50
Treyvond White
John Curtis Christian School
Title: Which Type of Soil Lets the Most Water Drain Through
Teacher: Cathy Boucvalt

Senior Division

1st Place, \$100
Jordan Badeaux
John Curtis Christian School
Title: How does "Spiking" Calcite solutions with Lanthanides During Simulated Microgravity Environments Alter Crystal Zoning, Solute Diffusion, and Crystal Morphology?
Teacher: Cathy Boucvalt

2nd Place, \$75
Melody Keel
Ursuline Academy
Title: How Did Katrina's Flood Waters Affect Cypress Trees in City Park
Teacher: Sharon Linton

3rd Place, \$50
Jordan Hanberry
John Curtis Christian School
Title: Gypsum's Effect on Sinkholes and Water Drainage
Teacher: Cathy Boucvalt

South Louisiana and Offshore Exploration and Production Activity

DRILL BITS

- McMoRan Exploration Co. on 26-February updated its exploration and development activities including positive drilling results at Laphroaig and Hurricane Deep.

The Laphroaig exploratory well was spudded 8-April-06, and was sidetracked to a TVD of 18,412 feet (19,515 feet MD). Following an unsuccessful production test in February 2007, the well was deepened to a TVD of 19,060 feet (20,250 feet MD) to test additional targets. Wireline logs indicated that the well encountered a potential 56 net feet of hydrocarbon bearing sands over a 75 foot gross interval. The well, located onshore in St. Mary Parish, LA, can be brought into production promptly utilizing existing infrastructure in the area.

Hurricane Deep, at South Marsh Island Block 217, commenced drilling October 26, 2006 and as of the end of February was being drilled below a true vertical depth of 20,600 feet. Log-while-drilling tools have indicated that an exceptionally thick upper Gyro sand was encountered totaling 900 gross feet. The top of this Gyro sand is credited with a potential of 50 feet of net hydrocarbons in a 53 feet gross interval. The exceptional sand thickness suggests that prospects in the Mound Point/JB Mountain/Hurricane/Blueberry Hill area may also have thick potential Gyro reservoirs. Previous wireline logs in the Hurricane Deep well have indicated 27 net feet of hydrocarbon bearing sands over a 200 foot gross interval in a laminated Rob-L section and a potential 20 net feet of hydrocarbon bearing sands over a 70 foot gross interval in the Operc section. McMoRan plans to continue drilling to a planned true vertical depth of 21,500 feet. If successful, the well could be brought on line quickly using existing facilities in the area. The Hurricane Deep prospect is located in twelve feet of water on OCS 310, one mile northeast of the Hurricane discovery well which is currently producing. This well would be McMoRan's seventh successful well in the OCS 310/State Lease 340 area.

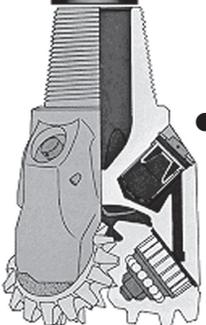
The Cas exploratory well at South Timbalier Block 70 was spudded on 30-January-07, and is being drilled to a PTVD of 25,000 feet. The prospect is located in ~65 feet of water.

A rig is on location at the Cottonwood Point exploratory prospect at Vermilion Block 31 and drilling is expected to commence within the week.

As previously reported, the Blueberry Hill well, Louisiana State Lease 340, encountered four potentially productive hydrocarbon bearing sands below 22,200 feet. Testing of this well commenced in the fourth quarter of 2006 following the receipt of special tubulars and casing for the high pressure well. The well has been perforated; however, production has not been established because of blockage above the perforated intervals. Additional operations to clear the blockage and complete testing of the well are expected in the coming weeks. Information obtained from testing of the Blueberry Hill well and the results of the Hurricane Deep well currently drilling will be incorporated in future plans for the JB Mountain Deep well, as all three areas demonstrate similar geologic settings.

- Mediation failed to resolve Anadarko Petroleum Corp.'s closely watched oil royalty lawsuit against the U.S. Department of the Interior.

In a filing with the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, Anadarko said "differences were too great to allow settlement of the case," so more mediation will be unproductive.



Kerr-McGee, acquired by Anadarko in 2006, sued the department last March to prevent the government from collecting royalties on production from oil and gas leases granted between 1996 and 2000 in the deepwater GoM.

Anadarko said it will submit a motion by May 24 asking the court to decide the case before it goes to trial, according to the two-page filing.

If Anadarko prevails, the government could lose up to \$60 billion in royalties industry-wide, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

The two sides agreed to start mediation last June.

The dispute centers around rules implemented by the MMS under a 1995 law designed to spur deep-water GoM exploration to boost U.S. production.

Anadarko, based in Houston, argues that the U.S. Congress guaranteed companies acquiring leases between 1996 and 2000 would have the unconditional right to produce a specified volume of oil and gas before being charged royalties.

The company claims that the MMS attempted to charge royalties on the leases, based on price thresholds, even though it has not yet surpassed the volume threshold.

Royalties from deepwater GoM leases have been widely disputed by the oil companies.

Some companies point to MMS rules for 1998 and 1999, which neglected to include price triggers that would require companies to pay royalties if oil and gas prices rose above a certain threshold, even though those triggers were included in leases issued in prior and later years.

A few companies holding 1998 and 1999 deep-water leases in the GoM have agreed to renegotiate these leases with the MMS. In January, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation calling for companies that do not renegotiate leases issued without price thresholds to include them or pay "conservation of resources" fees on those leases. If they do not, the companies would be barred from further leasing in the GoM. Meanwhile, the U.S. Senate is moving forward with legislation to offer a three-year extension to holders of these leases if the companies renegotiate them, and include a price threshold in their leases. Should the Senate pass legislation with this language, a joint House-Senate conference committee will try to compromise these significantly different pieces of legislation.

- Meridian Resource Corporation completed its evaluation of potential objectives at the "Deep Archtop" prospect in the Biloxi Marshlands area of St. Bernard Parish, and began marketing the prospect effort in mid-January 2007. Upon completion, Meridian began preparing the project engineering design for drilling and estimated costs. The project is designed to test a Jurassic Cotton Valley four-way closure on the leasehold. This 30,000 foot prospect reportedly has over 14,400 acres of closure, is imaged by 3-D seismic, and offers reserve potential of up to 5 trillion cubic feet of gas. The company will spend 2007 in pre-drill work, followed by 300-plus days to drill the well. The projected spud date is early second quarter 2008, with an estimated drilling cost of \$60 million. The shallow marshlands water location provides the potential for significant drilling cost savings and for any post-development infrastructure. Similarly sized offshore projects typically cost much more and require longer periods of time to construct the necessary pipelines and production facilities. Meridian owns production facilities and pipelines in the immediate area, and intends to retain and pay its share of approximately 20% working interest to the casing point in this well.

Paul Post

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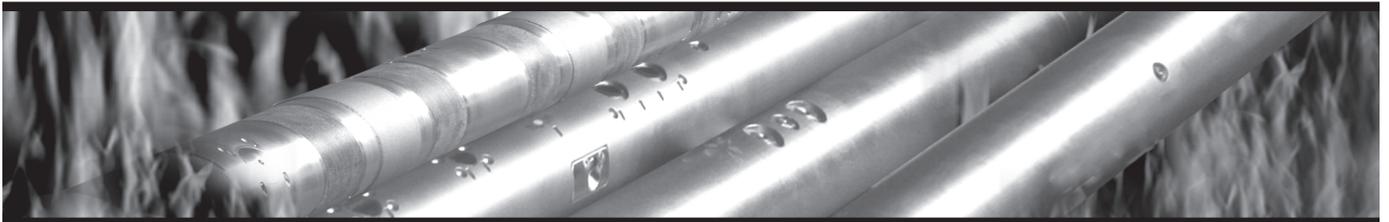


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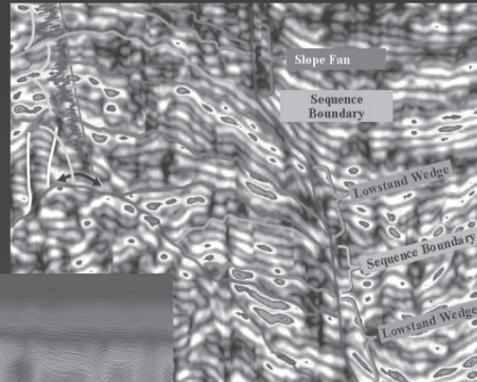
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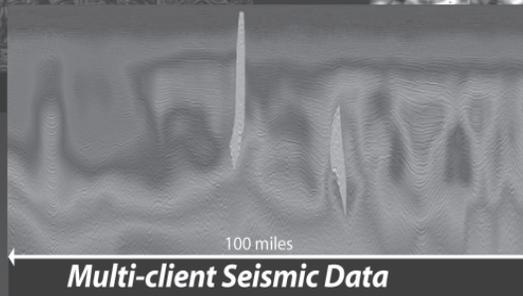
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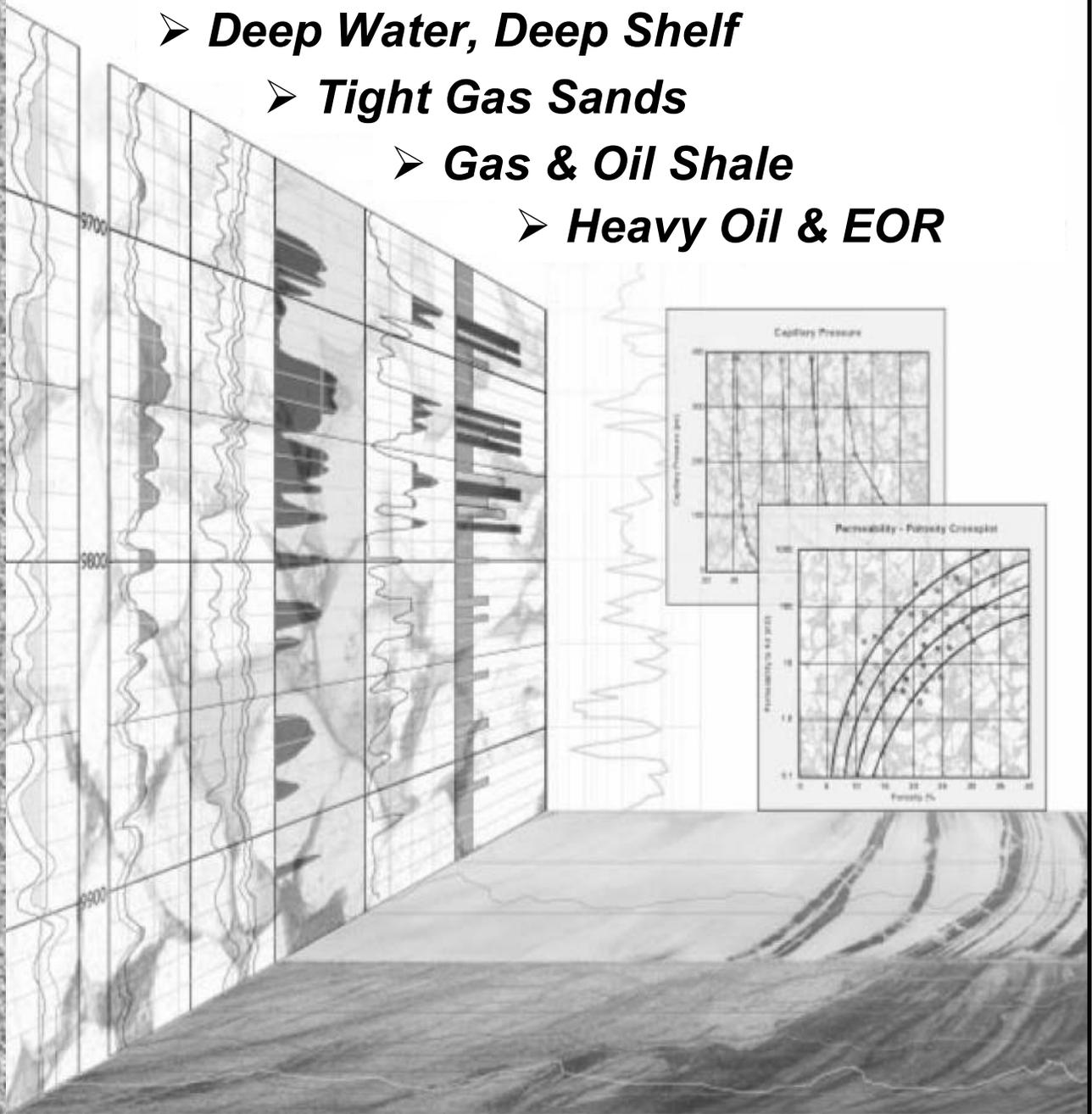
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FRANK BLAND

1924 – 2007

The New Orleans area geological community was deeply saddened to learn that Francis Xavier Bland died at his retirement home in Memphis, Tennessee on March 7, 2007

Frank, “Fixbee”, whose career was entirely with Chevron, was a commanding and influential explorationist from the time he joined the company in 1951 until his retirement in 1985.

Frank was born in Lima, Ohio on November 15, 1924, moved to New York at an early age and graduated from Bayside High School on Long Island before joining the Marines in 1942. There, he had a distinguished career, participating in the invasions of Guadalcanal and Guam. After Guam, he was selected for officer training at Yale University where he continued as a civilian, graduating in 1949. Following this, he did graduate work at Kansas

University before joining Chevron (The California Company) in 1950. With Chevron, he headed up an Exploration District in Jackson where he was largely responsible for the discovery of Raleigh Field. In 1961, he transferred to New Orleans where he was District Geologist in the Delta District and influential in the discovery of Main Pass 41 Field. After his Delta assignment, he became the Central Exploration Division Manager and was active in the development of the deep Tuscaloosa Trend. It was his NOGS talk on the Tuscaloosa that scored the largest luncheon audience in NOGS history: 410. He co-authored, along with Larry Funkhouser and Curtis Humphris, the introductory article to the 1981 NOGS Tuscaloosa Trend volume.

With Chevron, Frank was a strong leader, an outstanding speaker and a trusted mentor, who always found time to help, instruct, and inspire employees of every degree of experience.

He retired from Chevron in 1985 and soon moved to Durango, Colorado where he was an active volunteer for the Colorado Division of Wildlife, participating in the annual banding of geese and salmon spawn, and providing tours at their museum.

Frank leaves Marg, his wife of 59 years, along with nine surviving children, ten grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

His buoyant personality and cheerful presence will be missed by all who knew him.

- Bob Branson, Duncan Goldthwaite and Curt Humphris

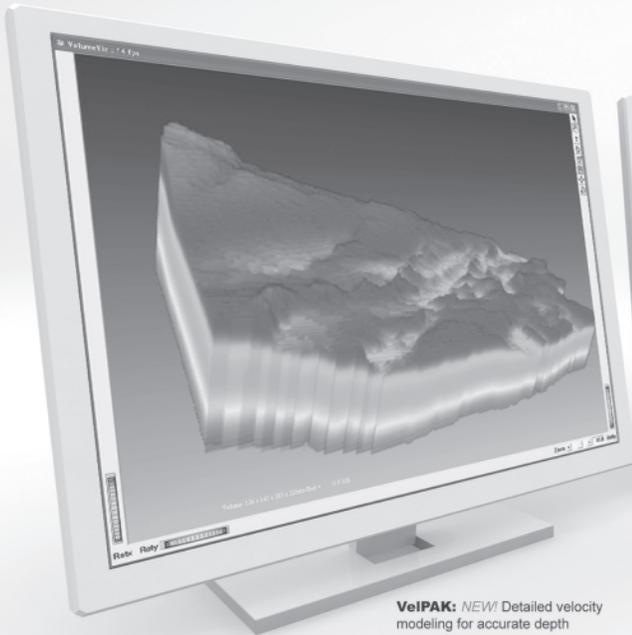


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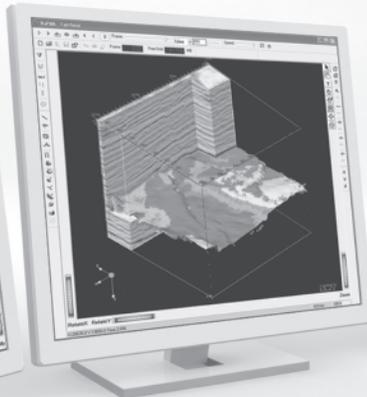
Seismic Micro-Technology, Inc. would like to resume the user’s group meeting for the New Orleans Area. The meetings will take place at UNO’s Lakefront campus. Please contact Mitch Luehr at (713) 464-6188, or email him at mluehr@seismicmicro.com to request a survey form to determine the best meeting time and frequency.

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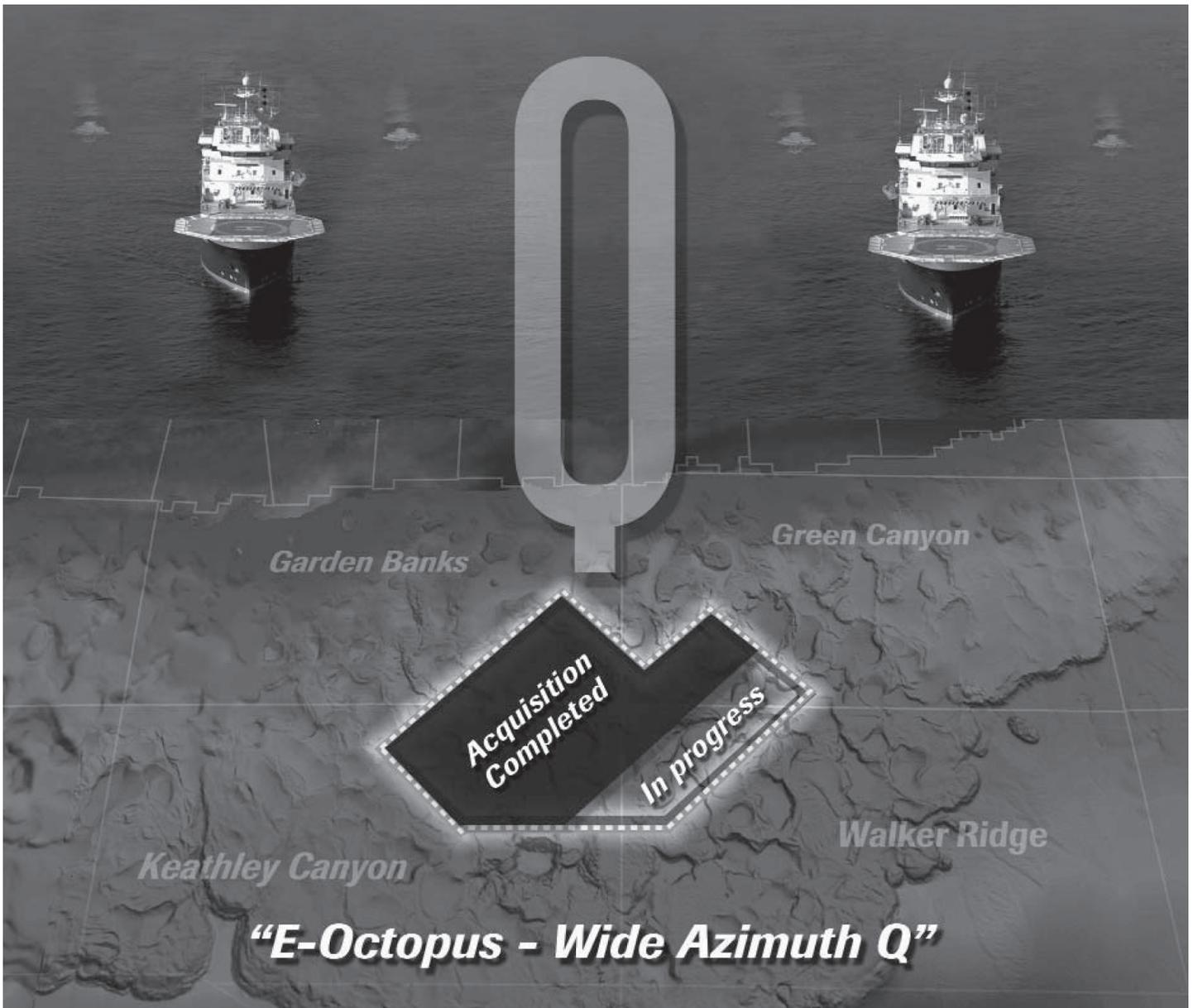
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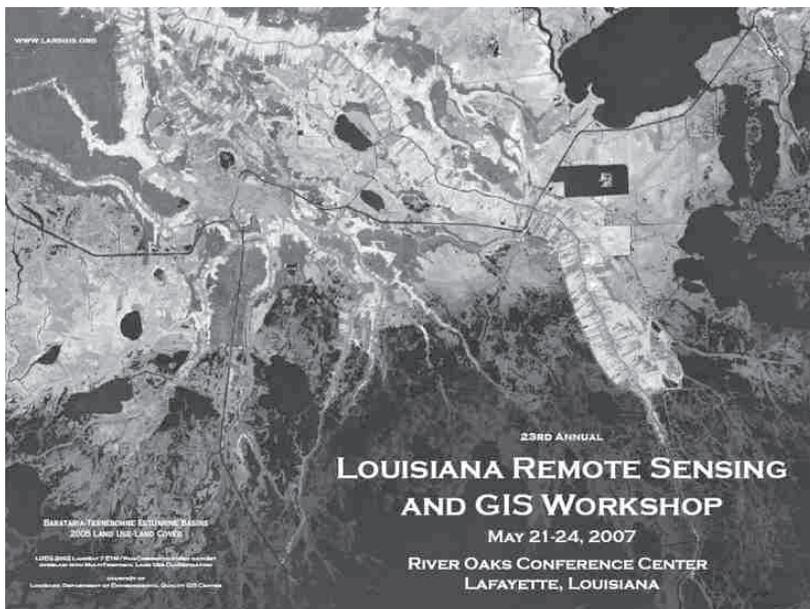
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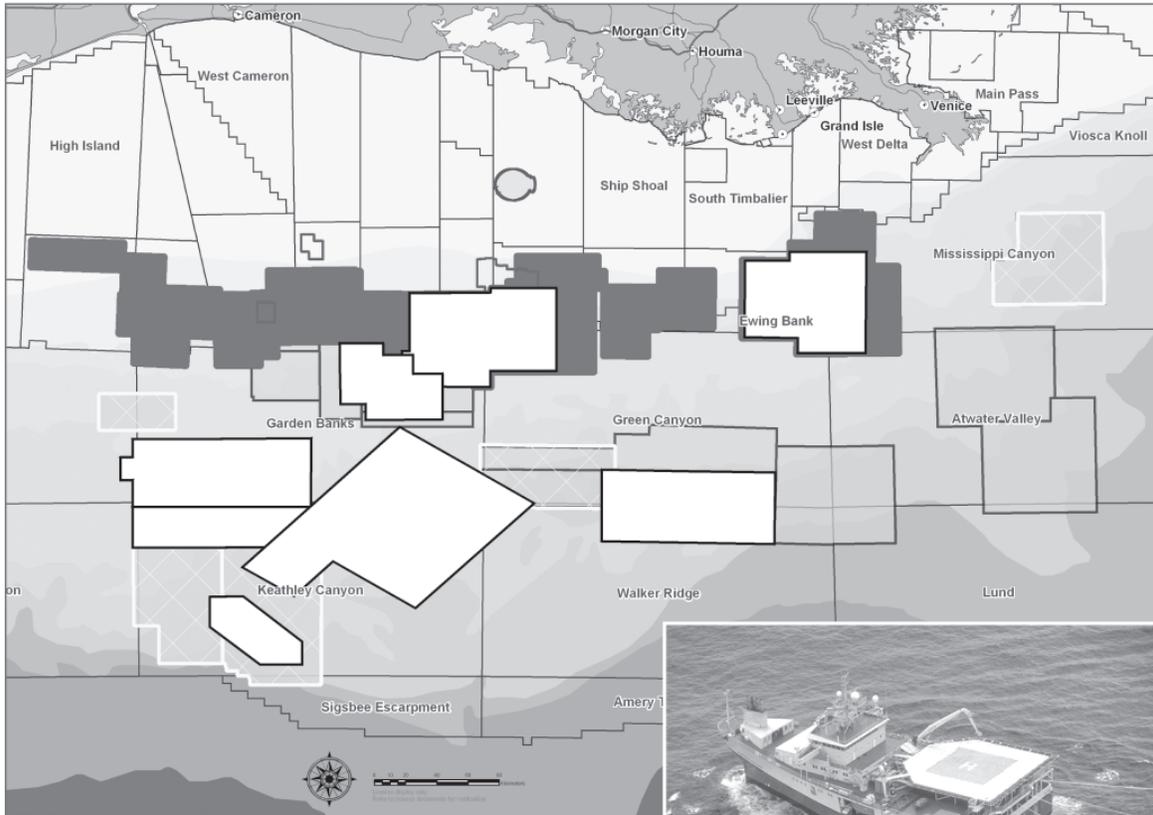
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