



New Orleans Chapter Newsletter

Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists
September 2017

The March Into Deeper Water: Deepwater Gulf of Mexico Oil Production through the years.

Chairman's Column

Our first meeting for the 2017-2018 year will be on September 19, at our regular venue, i.e. Andrea's in Metairie. The speaker will be Bob Meltz, with Chevron, who will discuss the development of the deep water Gulf of Mexico through the years. We finished up last year's calendar with our usual May Dinner meeting on May 16. Fifty-seven members and guests were in attendance, for an enjoyable evening.

During our summer break, a number of things occurred, not all of them welcome events. The worst news was that on August 9, we lost a good friend, our chapter secretary and an active member of many organizations, when Art Johnson died suddenly of heart failure at his home in Kenner. Art was a tireless contributor to the groups that he belonged to and was at the NOGS meeting, the day before his death. In addition to supplying chapter news for the SIPES Quarterly, Art most recently teamed up with Tom Klekamp to provide the lead technical article for the May Quarterly issue. Art is survived by his wife, Alice and daughter, Emily.

(Continued on page 2)

Robert Meltz

Geoscientist, Chevron



Tuesday, September 19th
Andrea's - Metairie

Registration & Networking - 11:30 AM

Lunch and Talk - Noon

Reservations and guests: Carol St. Germain - 504-267-3466

Bob Meltz is a geologist with Chevron with 35 years of oil industry experience in many of the onshore and offshore Gulf of Mexico trends, and is currently working on the BP-operated Mad Dog field where Chevron is a JV partner.

Bob, a native of Wisconsin, received a B.S. in Geology from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in 1980, and an M.S. in geology from Northern Illinois University in 1982.

Chairman's Column (continued)

On the National SIPES scene, changes are taking place. Effective August 31, Diane Finestrom was terminated as SIPES National Director, in a move to reign in expenses. Katie Ruvalcaba, who worked with Diane, will remain, but it is not clear how the National office will operate. Diane had been with SIPES 33 years. Changes to the SIPES' constitution are going to be proposed, including, probably, eliminating the dues waiver for older members.

SIPES, like most energy based organizations, is feeling the stress of the downturn. Cliff Williams has been busy lining up speakers for upcoming meetings and has filled out the schedule for this year, and into next.

Our meeting dates for the rest of this calendar year are:

September 19

October 17

November TBA Joint Societies MeetingDe

December 19

Last, but not least, with the tragic loss of Art Johnson, we need a new Chapter Secretary. Any member who would like to fill this spot, please contact me as soon as possible at lemarie6@cox.net or 393-8659.

Don't forget to send in your first half dues!

Louis E. Lemarié



Arthur H. Johnson (1951-2017)
A Memorial
By Chris McLindon



The New Orleans Chapter of SIPES is saddened by the loss of Art Johnson who passed away August 9. Many of us had seen him on Monday! Art took on life with what seemed to be boundless enthusiasm. He had an amazing sense of generosity that spanned not only his time and energy, but also an intellectual generosity. He freely shared ideas, and willing to consider the ideas of others. Art maintained the highest levels of academic rigor and ethical standards in a discipline that is often characterized as being a "soft science." Art had an active membership of SIPES since 2008 (SIPES #3153). He served our New Orleans Chapter as secretary, writing chapter reports for the National's SIPES Quarterly. The last SIPES national meeting he attended was Santa Fe, along with Alice and their daughter Emily. His company, Hydrate Energy International was frequently advertised in the SIPES program

Outside of SIPES he continued to excel in activity. He was a member on the GCAGS Imperial Barrel Award Committee, which in 2009 successfully raised a surplus of industry funding to support graduate student teams from five Gulf Coast universities. Art served as the Publicity Chairman for the 55th Annual GCAGS Convention that was scheduled in New Orleans but was disrupted by Hurricane Katrina. He then served as the General Chairman of the 2013 GCAGS Convention. Art was also a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists' Energy Minerals Division (AAPG-EMD), President of the New Orleans Geological Society (NOGS), and Chairman of the NOGS Memorial Foundation, Inc. He was a member of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG), the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists (SEPM), the American Geophysical Union (AGU), the Geological Society of America (GSA), the Houston Geological Society (HGS), and the Southeastern Geophysical Society (SGS). He was also a founding and continuing member on the Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists (LBOPG).

A native Californian, Art graduated from Humboldt State University and wanted to do graduate level work somewhere far from the "silver sunglasses and leather jacket" geology of California, landing at LSU. Art began his career with Gulf in 1977. After Chevron's merger with Gulf Oil, he became Division Geologist for the Gulf of Mexico and then New Trends Team Leader, which led him to study natural gas hydrates, a potential new source of energy. This in turn led to new career in gas hydrate exploration.

Art served as an advisor on energy issues to the U.S. Congress and White House beginning in 1997. He was also an adjunct research professor at Tulane University and played an ongoing role in coordinating the research efforts of industry, universities and government agencies.

Upon his retirement from Chevron in 2001, Art formed Hydrate Energy International, Inc. (HEI), where he was President and Chief of Exploration. He was a member of the Department of Energy Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee for which he served as Chairman from 2001 to 2006. Art served as the Gas Hydrate Lead Analyst for the "Global Energy Assessment", an international project undertaken by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) of Vienna, Austria, and supported by the World Bank, UN organizations, and national governments. He was Chair of the Gas Hydrate Committee of the Energy Minerals Division of the AAPG, was Co-convenor for the 2004 AAPG Hedberg Research Conference on Gas Hydrates, and Member of the JOIDES, Program Planning Group, 1998-1999. Art has written over 100 papers and articles, as well as several books including Exploration and Production of Oceanic Natural Gas Hydrate, Economic Geology of Natural Gas Hydrate: Alternative Energy and Fuels Technology, and AAPG Memoir 89: Natural Gas Hydrates. He made numerous technical presentations to local professional societies including NOGS, SIPES, SGS, the American Petroleum Institute (API), the American Association of Drilling Engineers (AADE), and the Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Symposium, where he worked tirelessly as a technical program coordinator.

Art also took his presentation skills to the local schools and the Vacation Bible School at his own Munholland United Methodist Church. He frequently used the USGS' "Tapestry of Time and Terrain" Map as a teaching tool for K-12 students. He was enthusiastic about science fairs and could be seen engaging and mentoring young scientists as peers.

During the 2010 Deepwater Horizon event, the New Orleans geological community was suddenly called by a San Francisco radio station to go live with Q&A's from an audience. Art fielded the call-ins. He was enthused about relating his knowledge of oil and gas production, at the same time trying to educate the listeners.

On a personal note, I was struck by my last conversation with Art Johnson at the August 7 NOGS Luncheon just two days before his death. At the end of the luncheon Art was talking to UNO graduate student Jarrett Levesh and me about the upcoming Deepwater Technical Symposium, convincing Jarrett to attend the Geoscience Seminar. Art's energy and enthusiasm reminded me exactly of a presentation I had seen him make at Gulf Oil in 1982. With just five years' experience, Art was selling the Vice President of Exploration on an offshore lease sale prospect, telling him, "This is the best prospect I have seen in my career!" I think it was that enthusiasm that carried Art throughout his career and made him beloved to so many people. We would all do well to follow Art's lead.

Contributions to Art's memory may be made to the NOGS Memorial Foundation, Inc. or to the Munholland United Methodist Church, 1201 Metairie Road Metairie, LA 70005.



LaBay

Exploration Co., L.L.C.

1070 A West Causeway Approach
Mandeville, Louisiana 70471

Office (985) 951-2012
Fax (985) 951-2055

www.labayexploration.com

BRUNET

WEALTH MANAGEMENT

- EST 1984 -

Randy M. Brunet CPA PFS

Registered Representative*
eltonfan@bfg.nocoxmail.com

TEL (504) 838-0227

FAX (504) 833-5217

446 Rosa Avenue
Metairie, LA 70005

*Securities offered through HD VEST INVESTMENT SERVICES, Member SIPC (Advisory Services Offered Through HD VEST ADVISORY SERVICES, 6333 North State Highway 161, Suite 400, Irving, TX 75038) (972) 470-6000
Brunet Wealth Management is not a registered broker/dealer or independent investment advisory firm.

Investment Management | Cash Flow and Debt Management
Family Risk Management | Retirement Planning
Education Planning | Legacy Planning | Business Planning
Special Situations Planning

BrunetWealthManagement.com

SEEK PRODUCTION

Petroleum Engineering and
Geologic Consultants.

Over 30 years of large & small company experience

Brian Evans **William Geen, Jr.**
Sr. Petroleum Engineer Geology & Geophysics
Houston and Greater New Orleans Areas

Louisiana 601-799-5925

Texas 281-710-7034

email: williamgeen@bellsouth.net

website: seekproductionllc.com

SEISOX, LLC

Seismic Opportunity Exploration

Seismic Interpretation
2D/3D

Map - Generate - Evaluate
Geoquest - SMT - Landmark

Philip Haerer
Consulting Geophysicist

504-885-9238

cell 504-250-0451

phaerer@bellsouth.net

CHAPTER CONTACTS

Chairman

Louis Lemarié 504-393-8659,
lemarie6@cox.net

Vice-Chairman

Cliff Williams
cliffwilliams1@me.com

Treasurer

Eric Broadbridge
eric@northcoastoil.com

Secretary,

Historical & Remembrances

Membership, Scott Wainwright
scott_wainwright@hotmail.com

Website & Newsletter

Dave Broadbridge
david@kimsuoil.com

Administrative Secretary
and Reservations

Carol St. Germain 504-267-3466
CarolA.StGermain@gmail.com
National SIPES Board

Chapter Representative

ALPINE EXPLORATION COMPANIES, INC.

Al Porretto and

Merle Duplantis, Vice-President, Geology
5910 N Central Xway, Ste 270
Dallas, Texas 75206

www.alpineexci.com

ap@alpinexci.com md@alpinexci.com

Dallas #s

214-692-0070 Fax: 214-692-0071

Merle's Mobile: 504-236-4650

Al's Mobile 504-452-4020

GEO-DRAFT, LLC

A Professional Drafting and Graphics Firm
Geological, Geophysical & Land Drafting
Courtroom & Legal Graphics

Anthony Catalanotto, Manager

**516 Maryland Avenue
Metairie, LA 70003
504-481-7291**

www.geodraftinc.com
geodraft@bellsouth.com

Newsletter Ad Rates

Sessions	September - December (4 issues) and January - May (5 issues)
Business Card	\$25 per session
1/4-page	\$100 per session
1/2-page	\$200 per session
Full page	\$400 per session
Non-member Business Card	\$50 per session
Send ad copy to	David Broadbridge, Editor dave@kimsuoil.com
Send payment to	SIPES New Orleans Chapter PO Box 50088 New Orleans LA 70150-0088



Beacon Exploration

Al Baker, Jr., Senior Explorationist
Abaker1006@aol.com

Hank E. Ecroyd, Senior Explorationist
hecroyd@aol.com

3636 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite 210
Metairie, LA 70002

Office: 504-836-2710

Visit our SIPES New Orleans Chapter Website

<http://www.sipesneworleans.org/>
Past Newsletters Calendar Photos Links
Consultants and Advertisers
David Broadbridge, Webmaster
david@kimsuoil.com

Roy Walther
Petroleum Geologist

2421 Prancer Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70131

504-392-8513 phone/fax
504-392-9332

Richard Provensal

Apex Geophysical Services, Inc.

3337 N. Hullen St., Ste. 201
Metairie, LA 70002

504-779-5006

richard@apexgeophysical.com

NORTHCOAST OIL COMPANY

Jack Thorson
610 E. Rutland Street
Covington, LA 70433

jack@northcoastoil.com
(985) 898-3577 Office
(985) 898-3585 FAX