



## Chairman's Column

We kick off our 2018-2019 meeting year on September 18, at our regular spot, i.e. 11:30 a.m. at Andrea's Restaurant in Metairie.

Cliff Williams has already lined up an impressive slate of speakers for future meetings, starting with Brian Anderson, the Technical sales Manager with ASV Global Seismic. Brian will talk about unmanned seismic surveys, a subject that could potentially open up many "cans of worms". It should be an extremely interesting presentation.

Dues notices went out several weeks ago, and Eric, reported a very good response....If you have not sent yours in please do so as soon as possible! Meeting dates for the rest of this this year are:

September 18  
October 16  
November – TBA  
December 18

Our chapter needs a secretary (vacant since Art Johnson passed away) and also a national board member---we will discuss these issues at the Sept meeting. As we start this meet session, we have 75 members in all categories and our chapter has continued to grow, thanks primarily to the efforts of Eric B., who also keeps track of our money, as Treasurer.

As I write this letter, the price of oil is hovering around \$70/B, which may not be where everybody would like to see it, but it is far better than not too long ago! Hopefully this is the floor with more upside potential.

As usual, Carol will call the week before the meeting, please be as accurate as possible so we can have a reliable number for Andrea's.

# New Orleans Chapter Newsletter

Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists  
September 2018

## Autonomous Vehicles in Oilfield Operations

# Brian Anderson

## ASV Global



**Tuesday, September 18th**  
**Andrea's - Metairie**  
**Registration & Networking - 11:30 AM**

**Brian Anderson** has been ASV Global Technical Sales Manager at ASV's Houston office since November, 2012. Brian's role is the market expansion for the industrial line of powered Autonomous Surface Vehicles (ASVs) now being built and operated by ASV Global in the USA and the UK. Brian is a 38 year veteran of the offshore seismic, remote sensing, and marine robotics industries, and has most recently been in the roles of VP of Oil and Gas Sales for Liquid Robotics, Inc. (now a Boeing Company), VP of Marketing & Sales for SeaBird Exploration Americas – specializing in advanced seabed node seismic, and VP of Marketing for Fugro Robertson. Brian was one of the original employees of LCT, Inc. which grew into a leading non-seismic geophysical contractor, and today is a division of CGG. He served many years as a Director and Treasurer of the IAGC, and is author of over 50 technical articles and peer reviewed papers. He earned a B.Sc. in Geological Oceanography from the University of Washington in 1980.

He can be reached by email at: [brian.anderson@asvglobal.com](mailto:brian.anderson@asvglobal.com)

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### Autonomous Vehicles in Oilfield Operations

#### Abstract:

Pressure to reduce costs in offshore oil and gas operations has produced a surge in support and use of ruggedized unmanned surface vehicles (USVs or ASVs) for several standard tasks in Exploration and Production (E&P), Inspection, Maintenance and Repair (IMR), and Survey operations.

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As illustrated in recent case studies from marine construction, seismic, pipelay, hydrographic, and environmental applications, this technology is no longer in development mode, and has become a prime example of the re-tooling of the offshore industry for more efficient and safer operations.

This talk looks at a number of important design considerations for ASVs being used in the offshore oil and gas industry. Applications which will be presented will include pipeline route surveys, ROV tracking/touch down monitoring, LBL array box-in and calibrations, as-built geophysical surveys for pipelines, unmanned seismic energy source operations for reservoir monitoring, marine mammal acoustic and visual monitoring, wind farm surveys, and hydrocarbon leak/seep detection and containment operations.

Included in this talk are case study observations and data from projects offshore Europe, Gulf of Mexico, the Mediterranean Sea, and Alaska. These results in several cases will also be presented to provide a clear comparison between standard methods showing the cost savings achieved by use of this technology. In all cases, the decreased project costs were made in parallel with no loss of data quality. In some cases, an improvement in data quality over standard methods was made, along with the decreased operational costs.

Unmanned surface systems in offshore oil and gas operations have now become a proven cost reduction tool. A growing number of contractors and operators are now using this technology with good results. Operators are now specifying this technology be offered by their contractors in order to reduce costs, with measurable results. Decreasing at-sea man hours has also provided a significant risk reduction.

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**Cliff Williams, P.E.**  
Principal  
P. O. Box 1081  
Mandeville, LA 70470  
(985) 705-7552  
cliffwilliams1@me.com  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/clifford-williams-p-e-88390222>

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**Tim Klibert**

Senior Vice President  
Business Development and Strategy

711 West Tenth Street Reserve, Louisiana 70084

24-Hour Service: 1-800-280-2096

Fax: (985) 536-2427 Cell: (504) 451-9515

E-mail: [tklibert@dwl-usa.com](mailto:tklibert@dwl-usa.com) / Website: [www.dwl-usa.net](http://www.dwl-usa.net)

New Orleans • Lafayette • Houston • Dallas • Corpus Christi • Appalachian

**Wayne Cook**

**Seitel**

**(985) 687-6467**



**Merle J. Duplantis**  
**Retired Explorationist**  
**Call as needed**  
**(504) 236-4650**  
**merleduplantis@outlook.com**

**George Severson**  
**Geological Consultant**  
**New Orleans, LA**

**Work Phone: 504-394-0939**  
**Mobile Phone: 504-352-0667**

**Richard Provensal**  
**Apex Geophysical Services, Inc.**  
**3337 N. Hullen St., Ste. 201**  
**Metairie, LA 70002**  
**504-779-5006**  
**richard@apexgeophysical.com**

## **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  
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### 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

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David Broadbridge, Webmaster  
david@kimsuoil.com