



NOC Newsletter

Volume 9, Number 6

September 2009

Chairman's Message

Welcome to our 2009-2010 meeting year. How time flies! Last year at this time we were sweating out the path of "Ike", which luckily missed our immediate area. So far this year things have been quiet on the storm front for us; keep your fingers crossed!

Since you elected to recycle your officers, "we're back!"

Mark your calendars for the upcoming meeting dates, which are:

2009

Sept. 15, Oct. 20,
Nov. 10 (Joint API at Roosevelt)
Dec 15 (open mike)

2010

Jan. 19, Feb. 23, Mar 16, Apr. 20 and
May 18 (Evening Dinner meeting)

All meetings, with the exception of the November 10th API Joint industry Luncheon, will be held at Andrea's in Metairie. The Joint API Meeting at the newly renovated Roosevelt Hotel will feature Dr. Michael Economides of the University of Houston. He has two new books and they will be available at reduced cost for attendees. Dr. Economides is an excellent and very entertaining speaker. The February date has been pushed back one week because of Mardi Gras. As in the past, we will convene at 11:30 for social with lunch served at noon.

I received an email from SIPES National notifying us that a local student has been awarded a \$2,000 scholarship from the SIPES Foundation. Although Benjamin Benedetto is a student at Ole Miss, he is from Metairie. Ben did a summer internship last year with Northcoast Oil in Covington which led to his application. We will invite him to one of our lunch meetings whenever it fits his schedule.

September Program David Broadbridge



"Add Snagit' to your Geologic Toolbox"

David will give an introduction to the geologic applications of the Snagit' program that will help you retrieve, annotate and enhance your presentations as well as speed up your workload. He will show you how to:

- Capture a log from SONRIS
- Color and annotate a log
- Capture a map from your SMT project
- Color and add annotations to your map

This talk will be a 30 minute introduction to using the Snagit' program and some of its applications. You may download a free trial at www.snagit.com before the meeting and bring your laptop to follow along.

Chairman's Message continued

We ended last year on a high note, with a surprise gift of \$10,000 to our chapter from Ben Waring, the acting chairman of the Gulf States Petroleum Exhibition and Conference. Despite this "stimulus" grant, we still have to pay dues. The first half is due now! Another reminder is the quest for new members. Remember that you can bring a potential member to one luncheon at no charge.

Despite the fact that oil prices have rebounded nicely to the \$70/bbl range (natural gas continues to lag behind) activity in South Louisiana remains depressed. The Lafayette District Scout Report on SONRIS which used to be about thirty pages long is currently about twelve. Hopefully, if the national economy continues to improve, the oil and gas industry will follow suit. I believe the fundamentals are in our favor!

Louis Lemarié

AAPG 2010 Notes

The AAPG Convention will be here in New Orleans April 11-15. Most of you will probably attend and as both the Editor of this Newsletter and President of NOGS, I urge you to sign up as volunteers.

On Tuesday April 13th evening at the World War II Museum. The entire Museum will be open for viewing. This should be a great time to visit with friends, see the latest exhibits and sample food by Chef John Besh. In addition, getting the Pfister Sisters and their retro-rendition of the WWII era Andrews Sisters, would make for a great evening. This is shaping up to be a signature event and you or your company's name could be recognized as one of the underwriters. Contact Al Baker for details.

A Quiet Sun?

For hundreds of years, humans have observed that the Sun has displayed activity where the number of sunspots increases and then decreases at approximately 11- year intervals. Sunspots are dark regions on the solar disk with magnetic field strengths greater than 1500 gauss (see Figure 1), and the 11- year sunspot cycle is actually a 22- year cycle in the solar magnetic field, with sunspots showing the same hemispheric magnetic polarity on alternate 11- year cycles. The last solar maximum occurred in 2001, and the magnetically active sunspots at that time produced powerful flares causing large geomagnetic disturbances and disrupting some space- based technology.

But something is unusual about the current sunspot cycle. The current solar minimum has been unusually long, and with more than 670 days without sunspots through June 2009, the number of spotless days has not been equaled since 1933. The solar wind is reported to be in a uniquely low energy state since space measurements began nearly 40 years ago.

Why is a lack of sunspot activity interesting? During the period from 1645 to 1715, the Sun entered a period of low activity now known as the Maunder Minimum, when through several 11- year periods the Sun displayed few if any sunspots. Models of the Sun's irradiance suggest that the solar energy input to the Earth decreased during that time and that this change in solar activity could explain the low temperatures recorded in Europe during the Little Ice Age.

Because little is known about what causes a prolonged dearth of sunspots, scientists are combing through recent solar data in efforts to find some clue to the Sun's unusual behavior.

Excerpted from Eos, Transactions of the American Geophysical Union, 28 JULY 2009. Authors: W. Livingston and M. Penn, National Solar Observatory, Tucson, Ariz.

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Development and Management
of Petroleum Ventures

Upcoming Conventions, Conferences and Expos

TITLE	DATES	LOCATION
GTW Geoscience Aspects of Estimating Petroleum Resources and Reserves	09-11 September 2009	Houston
AAPG - Eastern Section	20-22 September 2009	Evansville, IN
GCAGS-GCSSEPM 59th Annual Meeting	27-29 September 2009	Shreveport, LA
Hedberg - Deepwater Fold and Thrust Belts	04-09 October 2009	Tirrenia, Italy
AAPG - Mid-Continent Meeting	11-13 October 2009	Tulsa, OK
GSA - Annual Meeting	18-21 October 2009	Portland, OR
GTW - GIS Applications in Oil & Gas	TBA November 2009	Dallas, TX
AAPG International Conference & Exhibition	15-18 November 2009	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
API Delta Section Joint Meeting	10 November 2009	New Orleans - Roosevelt
European Region Annual Conference	23-24 November	Paris-Malmaison, France
APPEX	02-04 March	London, UK
AAPG - Annual Convention	11-17 April 2009	New Orleans
SIPES - 47TH Annual Meeting	21-24 June 2010	Colorado Springs, CO
GEO India - 2d Annual South Asian Geosciences Conference & Exhibition	08-10 December 2010	India
AAPG 2011 Annual Meeting	10-13 April 2011	Houston
AAPG Rocky Mtn Meeting	25-29 June 2011	Casper, WY

Alternate Energy: Photovoltaics

Annual Photovoltaic
Domestic Shipments, 1998 - 2007

Year	Photovoltaic Cells & Modules ¹
1998	15,069
1999	21,201
2000	19,838
2001	36,310
2002	45,313
2003	48,664
2004	78,346
2005	134,465
2006	206,511
2007	280,475
U.S. Total	886,193

¹ Total shipments minus export shipments.

Notes: Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Total shipments include those made in or shipped to U.S. Territories.

Source: Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-63B, "Annual Photovoltaic Module/Cell

U.S. Passive Margins: Are We Missing an Important Opportunity?

Understanding passive margins—thick-accumulations of sediments built above the juncture between continental and oceanic crusts—has far-reaching economic and societal implications. Passive margins underlie the coastal regions of most of the conterminous United States, extending continuously from Texas eastward to Florida and northward to Maine. They hide most of the undiscovered hydrocarbon reserves of the United States, and they are excellent sites for sequestering carbon dioxide. Natural hazards of hurricanes, tsunamis, sea level rise, and rapid subsidence, and concerns related to the United Nations Law of the Sea, also make it imperative to better understand passive margins, and how they form and evolve.

Economic and societal concerns provide natural avenues for explaining the importance of this and other hypothesis-driven geoscientific research efforts to U.S. taxpayers and political leaders, especially because much of the United States population lives on or near our passive

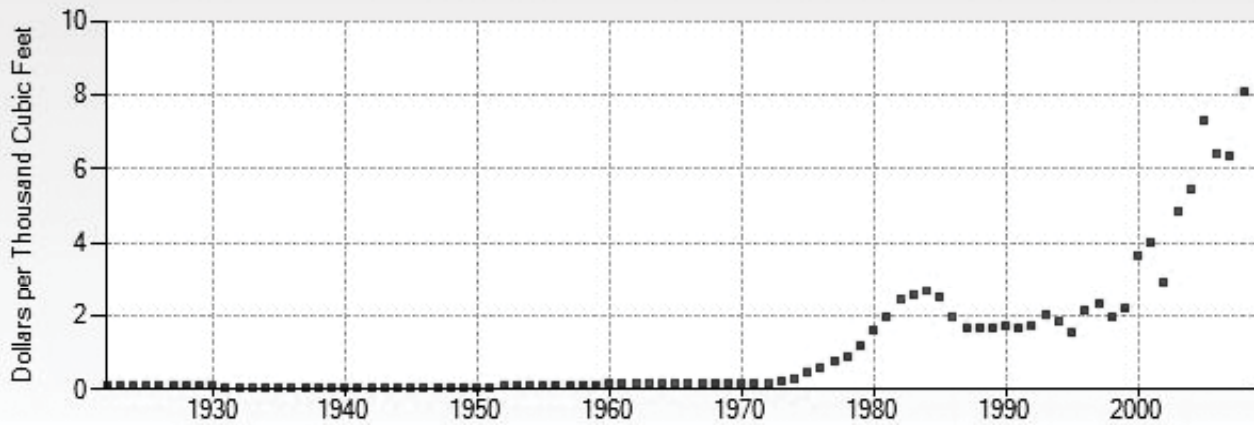
margins. Linkages between fundamental geoscientific research and societal issues are relatively visible and easy to explain to residents of the tectonically active western United States, and comprehensive studies of U.S. passive margins present a similar opportunity to reach and teach residents of the eastern and southern United States. Furthermore, the economic potential of passive margins invites joint study and sharing of data by industrial and academic scientists.

Excerpted from Eos, Transactions of the American Geophysical Union, 12 FEB 2008. Authors: Robert J. Stern, Geosciences Department, University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson; E-mail: rjstern@utdallas.edu; and Simon Klemperer, Dept of Geophysics, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.

Where's the beef?

New Orleans Chapter members are most welcome to submit articles to the Chapter Newsletter. We could use some scouting news and information about developments and exploration activity in south Louisiana.

Annual U.S. Natural Gas Wellhead Price



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Below, latest monthly wellhead prices for gas \$/MCF.

Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09
5.15	4.19	3.72	3.43	3.45	3.45

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