



SPG North American Chapter Newsletter

Compiled by: Dhananjay Kumar

Contributions from: SPG-North American chapter members



2010 Q2 meeting, University of Houston



2010 picnic, Bear Creek Park Houston



2010 SEG, SPGNA award presentation



2010 AGU, SPGNA award presentation **1**



Introduction:

I am pleased to compile the second newsletter of the SPG North American Chapter (SPGNA). The newsletter is intended to summarize the activities during the current year and outline plans for next year. SPGNA had a successful year in 2010. The main highlights are: SPGNA supported two students from India to attend and present their research at SEG-2010 and AGU-2010, agreed to collaborate with Geophysical Society of Houston (GSH), conducted four general meetings, organized a family picnic in Houston, elected new SPGNA executive team for 2010-2012, formalized our mission and objectives and posted on web, established two SPGNA annual awards, and coordinated with many Indian Geoscientists.

SPGNA members informally met few times to discuss our activities. There was good momentum among SPGNA members to formalize its mission and objectives and to improve the professional image of SPGNA. Information about SPGNA is updated on the web. We got an opportunity to meet Mr. Dave Agarwal, an active GSH member, to help in improving the visibility of SPGNA. This led to collaboration with a reputed geophysical society, GSH. We hope the relationship between SPGNA and GSH will develop with time. I recommend SPGNA members to join GSH. GSH will open a sub-account in the name of SPGNA, this will provide tax benefits (in USA) to donors.

I thank all SPGNA members for their help and suggestions. We need to work together, be proactive and be responsible to make SPGNA successful in a long run. We have established two annual awards, one of them will be given to SPGNA member for his/her dedication to help achieve objectives of SPGNA, and second award will be given to Indian geoscientist to recognize their contribution to geosciences. SPGNA is committed to providing an active global platform for Indian geophysicists. Comments and suggestions are welcome!

Until next newsletter,
Dhananjay



2010 Activities:

1. Awarded SPGNA travel scholarships to two students from India – Vishal das from ISMU to attend and present a paper at SEG-2010 in Denver, and Shaunak Ghosh from IIT Kharagpur to attend and present a paper at AGU-2010 in San Francisco.
2. Started professional collaboration with Geophysical Society of Houston (GSH). Special thanks to Dave Agarwal for his help and mentoring. SPGNA and GSH members will be more involved in each other's society activities. Also SPGNA now will receive donation through GSH and donors will get tax benefits in USA.
3. Contributed to SPG-India biannual conference 2010 at Hyderabad: SPGNA was very well appreciated for our contribution including publication of SPGNA special issue of "Geohorizons" that was released during conference. There were active participations by SPGNA members in technical presentations and instructing pre- and post-conference courses.
4. Established two SPGNA awards to be given starting 2011 at SEG meeting.
5. Conducted 4 general meetings and a family picnic:
 - I. Q1 meeting in the campus of University of Houston: where we discussed various matters and had a technical presentation by Dr. Purna Singh from Chevron on unconventional gas resources,
 - II. Q2 meeting in the campus of University of Houston: many students participated and we had a technical presentation by Dr. Prajnajyoti Mazumdar from ExxonMobil on 3D VSP imaging of tight gas sandstone,
 - III. Q3 meeting in Denver during SEG-2010,
 - IV. Q4 meeting in San Francisco during AGU-2010, and
 - V. Family picnic in Houston during Thanksgiving weekend.
6. Helped many students in India to get internship/fulltime positions in India and abroad, and in application for higher studies. Published various available opportunities/positions on our web.
7. Updated website on a regular basis. We added additional links to focus on job opportunities and resources available on web. Please visit the SPGNA website (www.spgnorthamerica.org) and let us know your comments.



2010 news about SPGNA members:

Prof. Satish Singh – received “AGU Fellow award”

Prof. Satish Singh was born in Varanasi, India and completed his education at Banaras Hindu University and University of Toronto, Canada, and is currently a Professor in Paris, France. He has published over 110 papers in peer-reviewed journals, including nine in Nature and Science. He has supervised over 50 Ph.D. students and post-doctoral researchers. He was awarded AGU Fellow in 2010 for his exceptional contributions to Earth and space sciences.



Dr. Jyoti Behura – received “SEG best Geophysics paper award”

Jyoti completed his PhD in May 2009 from Colorado School of Mines and is currently a geophysicist with BP Houston. Jyoti Behura and professor Ilya Tsvankin received SEG’s Best Paper in Geophysics Award at the SEG’s Annual Meeting in Denver for their paper “Role of the inhomogeneity angle in anisotropic attenuation analysis.” This work provides a basis for using directionally-dependent attenuation coefficients in fracture characterization & lithology discrimination.



Dip Shankar Nanda – geoscience journey from India to USA

Dip’s first experience with Geophysics was in the form of Geography in school. He then joined 5 years integrated course in Applied Geology at IIT Kharagpur. After Kharagpur he got admission in the University of Houston (UH), from where he completed MS degree in 2010. The title of his MS thesis work was: Spectral Decomposition of Seismic Data using Mu-Pseudo-Wavelets and Mu-Wavelets. Since August 2010 he has been working full time with Geokinetics.





Plan 2011:

1. Collaborate with GSH on technical and non-technical issues.
2. More aggressive campaign to receive donation in SPGNA fund.
3. Collect and review technical papers on unconventional resources and methods used in it's exploration and exploitation for publication in journal "Geohorizons".
4. Work with young geophysicists in India specially students to inform them on various opportunities, help them find job/internships, help them locate funds for attending and presenting papers at SEG and AGU.
5. Conduct two technical meeting in Houston and two general meetings one at SEG and another at AGU. We will also organize a family picnic like in 2010.

2010 Event Calendar

Q1 meet: 27th March, Houston
Q2 meet: 17th July, Houston
Q3 meet: 20th Oct., SEG, Denver
Picnic: 27th Nov., Houston
Q4 meet: 15th Dec., AGU, San Francisco

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SPG-NA team (2010-2012):

President: Dhananjay Kumar
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Secretary: Tania Mukherjee
Web Secretaries: Dip Shankar Nanda
Pavan Elapavaluri
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