

NOGS LOG

Official Publication of the New Orleans Geological Society, Inc.

February 2006

Volume 46, Number 4

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

NOGS Events

February 6 NOGS Luncheon

Dale Bird, of Bird Geophysical, will present "Jurassic Tectonics of the Gulf of Mexico"

(See Page 3 for Abstract and Biography)

Contact the NOGS Office for reservations.

Please note the new e-mail address for the NOGS Office is info@nogs.org.

NEW LUNCHEON LOCATION

SHERATON HOTEL

Check with concierge or desk for location

Lunch served at 11:30am

ADMISSION:

with reservation \$25.00

without reservation \$30.00

Student Member with reservation Free

February 11 NOGS Kickoff Party

7:30-10:30pm at Andrea's Restaurant in Metairie

(See back page for Announcement)



from the President

"Rebuild Rebuild Rebuild" is the mantra for the city of New Orleans and NOGS. By rebuilding NOGS, we are contributing to the rebuilding of New Orleans. We must rebuild; but how do we start, and can we make a difference?

We start by examining the reason for NOGS' existence.... to give its members a place to interact. This interaction allows the members to exchange technical knowledge, develop business relationships, and foster friendships. Each of us sees the role of NOGS a little differently; however, I believe that NOGS will be most successful if it facilitates all three: technical exchange, business relationships and friendships. The rebuilding of NOGS must address all three.

The NOGS rebuilding continued in December with a well-attended Holiday Party at the home of Ed Picou. I would like to thank Ed for sharing his home, and Annette Hudson and Mike Fein for organizing the party. Catching up with friends and colleagues after the turmoil of the last few months filled an inner void created by Katrina. If you missed this opportunity to rekindle old friendships and start new ones, you have another chance at the upcoming Kick-off Party at Andrea's restaurant on February 11th. I hope you are able to attend. Our technical luncheon meetings resume on February 6th at the Sheraton on Canal Street. Please do your

FROM THE EDITOR



Dear NOGS members and advertisers,

This issue is obviously an abbreviated version of the *NOGS Log*. We have missed four issues and target having a full *Log* in March. Please, remember our advertisers who are listed in this issue and have advertisements with links on the NOGS website, www.nogs.org.

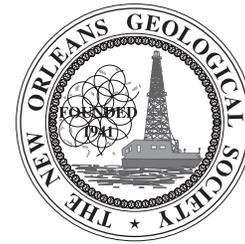
This is a work in progress as we are re-constructing NOGS and our services to you, our members. Things will evolve, and they will change; hopefully for the better. Your comments and suggestions are welcome and appreciated.

Paul Post
Editor *NOGS Log*
E-mail: log@nogs.org

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NOGS Office

Office Manager: Annette Hudson
 Office Hours: 8:30am – 3:30pm on Monday-Wednesday-Friday
 Tel: 504-561-8980 • Fax: 504-561-8988
 E-mail: info@nogs.org • Website: www.nogs.org
 The office is located at Suite 300, 810 Union Street, New Orleans, LA 70112.
 Correspondence and all luncheon reservations should be sent to the above address.
 Sent to press on January 10, 2006.



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Due to space constraints in this issue of NOGS LOG, the following contact information is not included below. These contacts will return next month, and can be accessed on our website, www.nogs.org.

Committees and Chairpersons	NOGS Auxiliary
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President’s Message (continued from page 1)

part to rebuild NOGS and New Orleans by attending the meeting and discussing geology and business with your fellow NOGS members.

Like most everyone who sees the devastation of Katrina, I wonder if there is anything I can do to make a difference. The rebuilding is such a monumental task that I find it hard to believe I can make a difference. Then I remember the story of a man who was walking down the beach after a storm. He walked the beach dazed by the sight of thousands of dying starfish washed ashore by the storm. He noticed a little boy moving along the shoreline. The boy was picking up the starfish and returning them to the water where they could survive. Given the huge number of stranded starfish, the man felt the boy's actions were useless and asked the boy if his good deeds were really making a difference. As the boy set another starfish in the water, he looked at the man and said, "It makes a difference to this starfish". The man smiled and began returning starfish to the water. Although the devastation of Katrina is immense, please do your part to rebuild our great city.... make a difference.

On a more personal note, but one with implications for NOGS, I must announce that I have been transferred to Houston and will resign as President of NOGS. As dictated by the NOGS constitution, the Vice President, Scott Wainwright, will assume my duties as President. I hope that I have the chance to further express what New Orleans and NOGS has meant to me and my family. For now, let me say that my transfer has triggered a vast range of emotions including gratitude for the opportunity to serve as President of NOGS, sorrow for saying farewell to friends, excitement for the challenges that lie ahead, and guilt for leaving a city in need. As I think about leaving New Orleans after 15 years, I am overcome by a tremendous sense of emptiness, but then I recall the wonderful memories, and with those memories comes happiness! Thanks and farewell.

Bret Hampton

Jurassic Tectonics of the Gulf of Mexico

Dale Bird

to present at the Luncheon on February 6, 2006

ABSTRACT

Interpreted hotspot tracks in the deepest part of the western Gulf of Mexico basin are identified from structural highs that were mapped by integrating seismic refraction and gravity data. A Late Jurassic mantle plume may have generated these tracks on the North American plate and Yucatan block as the Gulf of Mexico opened (ca. 150 Ma). The proposed hotspot tracks are associated with high-amplitude, distinctive gravity anomalies that provide the basis for a kinematic reconstruction that restores the western ends of the hotspot tracks with a 20 clockwise rotation of the Yucatan block, or almost one-half the total rotation required to open the Gulf of Mexico basin. The duration of track generation is estimated to have been about 8 to 10 My, or almost one-half the total time required to open the Gulf of Mexico basin.

Before extension related to seafloor spreading, extension of continental crust over a 10 to 12 My interval was the result of approximately 22 of counterclockwise rotation and crustal thinning. Autochthonous salt appears to be confined to the continental flanks of the hotspot tracks confirming that salt was deposited during continental extension and not after ocean floor had begun to form. The prominent gravity anomaly along the western boundary of the basin is thought to be produced by a marginal ridge, which was created along the ocean-continent transform boundary as the basin opened. The eastern flank of this marginal ridge, and the northernmost, easternmost, and southernmost terminations of the hotspot tracks, are interpreted to coincide with the oceanic-continental crustal boundary in the basin.

BIOGRAPHY

Dale Bird served in the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion, U.S. Army, from 1976 to 1979. In Houston his first job was with Aero Service (1981) as a data processor, and his experience since has included positions with Digicon Inc., Marathon Oil Company, World Geoscience, and Aerodat. In 1997 he established Bird Geophysical. While working, Dale has earned three degrees in

geophysics from the University of Houston: BS in 1986, MS in 1991, and Ph.D. in 2004. He is a licensed Texas Professional Geoscientist and a member of several professional organizations including: AAPG, AGU, EAGE, GSA, GSH, HGS, SEG, UHGAA, and the National Eagle Scout Association (NESA).

THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 1, SO CALL THE NOGS OFFICE - TODAY!

“And Looking Ahead...”

The next luncheon will be March 6. Carl Fiduk of CGG Americas, Inc. will present "Extensional rafting: A new idea for structural control of shelf margin and slope facies deposition in Upper Wilcox strata of South Texas, northwestern onshore Gulf of Mexico." Contact the NOGS office at 561-8980 or e-mail annette@nogs.org to make your reservation.

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NOGS Kickoff Party



Happy Mardi Gras! Kickoff the Mardi Gras season with the hurricane-delayed NOGS Kickoff Party.

The party will be held at Andrea's Restaurant, 3100 19th Street at Ridgelake in Metairie, Louisiana 70002, just off Causeway Blvd., Tel: (504) 834-8583, from 7:30 to 10:30 on Saturday night, February 11, 2006. It will feature a full line of hors d'oeuvres. You can find the menu on the Andrea's web site <http://www.andreasrestaurant.com/receptionpackages.html>. See Reception package #1.

Reservations at \$35 per person can be made through Annette Hudson at the NOGS office, telephone 561-8980 or e-mail annette@nogs.org. Two drinks, either alcoholic or non-alcoholic are included. Hey members, **THEY CAN'T ALL BE FREE!!**

Happy New Year!
Mike Fein

NEW ORLEANS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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