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APRIL 2020
Volume 60 No. 10



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IN THIS ISSUE



On the Cover

Reflection Canyon, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, USA. Found on the side of Lake Powell, on the border between Utah and Arizona, Reflection Canyon is an astonishing natural wonder. Popularized by the photographers, whose pictures inspired visitors to look for this place, the canyon previously didn't dominate the travel guides.

That isn't surprising at all, since the spot is hard to reach. It is accessed either by boat or by a strenuous 88 km (55 mi) road. The whole area can also be explored from the air on a plane tour. However, the sites are astounding, especially the shoreline of Lake Powell. But after a journey, the travelers are rewarded with an amazing S-shaped canyon.

From the Editor...

Thanks to all those who continue to contribute to the monthly LOG. If you have any suggestions for future issues or have an article/photo(s) to contribute, please email me at cmiller@ocsbbs.com. We would certainly love your input and any additional LOG content to be considered that may be of interest to NOGS members.

Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone during this unprecedented time and hope you and your loved ones are healthy and safe.

Charlie



Charles Miller III
NOGS LOG Editor



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FROM THE NOGS PRESIDENT ROBERT ROONEY



I hope this letter finds you well. My thoughts, prayers, and best wishes, go out to you and your family stays safe from the effects of this Coronavirus (COVID 19) disease. Needless to comment, the Coronavirus has taken a huge toll on communities, businesses, schools, and social organizations across our nation. NOGS has suspended all gatherings until further notice, Luncheon meetings for April & May have been cancelled, volunteer activities have been put on hold, our Board meetings are now held via web-conference, and our joint Golf Tournament, along with PLANO and SPWLA, has been rescheduled to Monday October 12th at Beau Chene. Thanks to Toby Roesler, Leslie Broussard of Diversified Well Logging, and other Golf Tournament Committee members, PLANO and SPWLA for continuing to press forward with the plans for this important event, which helps NOGS to fulfill its commitment to the Children's Museums of New Orleans and St. Tammany. The GeoGulf (GCAGS Annual Convention) in Lafayette is still planned for Sept. 30 – Oct 2, 2020, and according to AAPG's website, they are still planning to hold the 2020 Annual Convention and Exhibition (ACE) on June 7-10 in Houston, but will continue to monitor health and safety information.

Whether you call it social distancing, shelter in place, quarantine, or just isolation, it involves putting physical distance between each other, our colleagues, extended family, friends, and neighbors, in order to avoid the spread of a virus that we cannot see but are all keenly aware of. Katrina was a disaster that had some geological underpinnings that we as geologists could analyze, host field trips, and make recommendations for remedies. By contrast, for the Coronavirus pandemic, I feel we can only react to the advice of our political leaders and medical experts as to what course of action to take.

Important to all of us from a business and career perspective, the oil price has dropped from the 60's to low 20's with surprising speed. We are hearing of stranded tankers, and the US Government taking the opportunity to re-fill the SPR salt domes with low-priced oil. Oil with nowhere to go? This drop has had a huge negative effect on the finances of oil and gas businesses and has unfortunately resulted in reduction of capital budgets and loss of jobs. It can be a rather disheartening scenario in isolation, but it will not go on forever.

Our city has faced disease epidemics in the past, and has survived, and we will survive this one as well. Once this is over, we will return to a vibrant industry and global economy that will demand our energy. Likewise, our skills as oil and gas professionals will remain in high demand. I think every price cycle in our industry has a story, and we will all remember this one.

The business interruption, for me, involved setting up a home office using my employer's computer equipment so that I can continue to be productive, yet reduce personal interaction. I am grateful to work for an employer who values the safety of its employees and has pre-invested in a workstation platform that is versatile enough to accommodate remote-office capability.

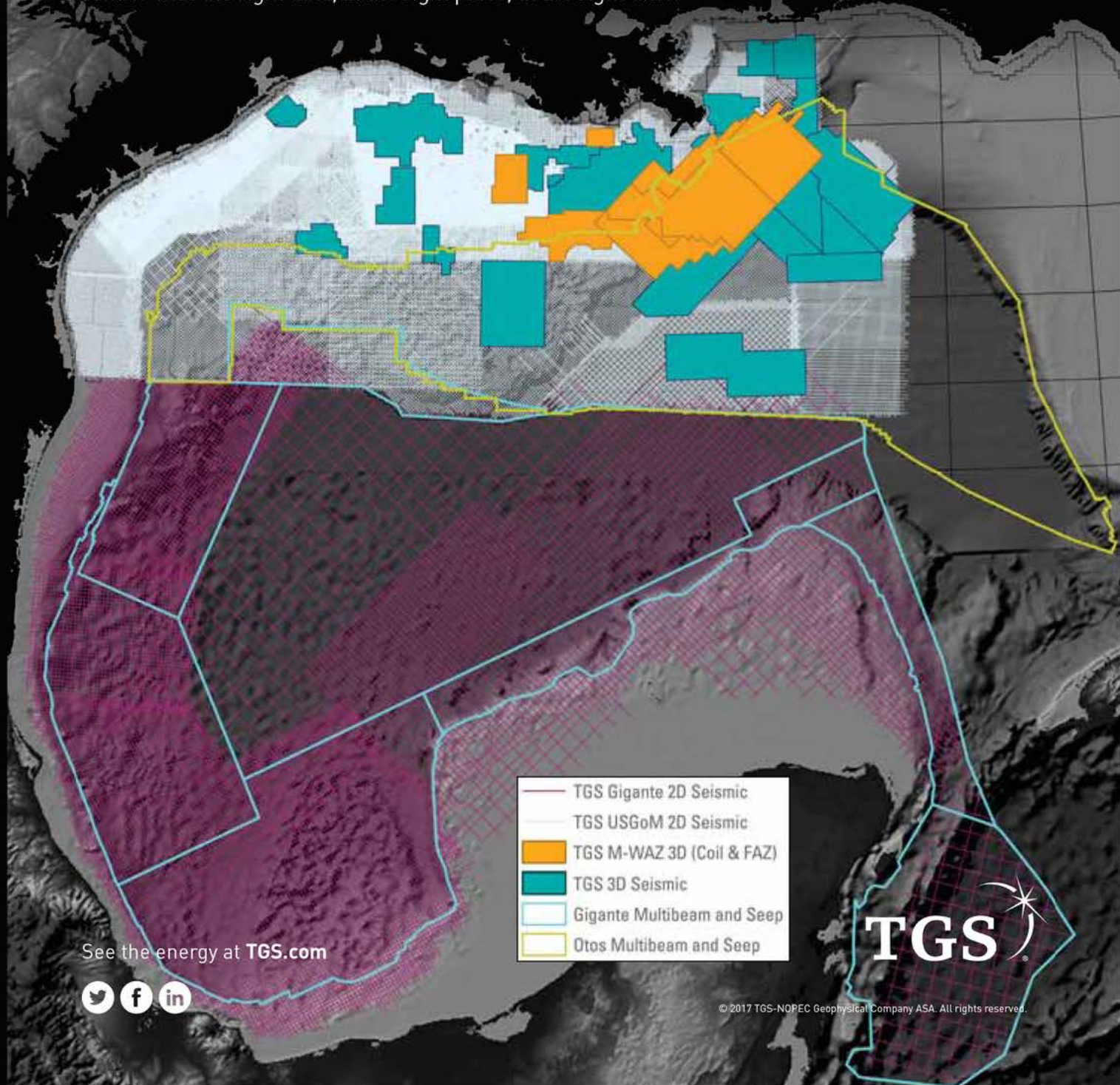
Looking ahead, I am pleased to announce that NOGS has a list of Board member nominations for our 2020/2021 Board of Directors. Much thanks to Nominations Committee Chair, Jennifer Connolly. Please review this list of candidates in this issue of the *NOGS LOG*. Due to cancellation of our April monthly luncheon meeting, where we traditionally would hold a call for nominations from the floor, we have sent out a separate email announcement to present the list of candidates, and to solicit nominations "from the floor" (via email) to be closed on April 6th at noon.

We appreciate your cooperation in this unprecedented time, and encourage you to reach out to the Board electronically with any comments you may have for improving our communications, and any ideas you may have for virtual meeting platforms that will allow us to connect as a society as we move through this difficult period.



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PICTURE FROM THE PAST



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**May 21, 1994 - NOGS Crawfish Boil held at Angelo's Restaurant on Veterans
Memorial Blvd near Bonnabel**

Submitted by

Ed Picou, Chairman - Historical Committee

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The New Orleans Geological Society was organized on October 3, 1941, as a non-profit organization for the purpose of facilitating the development of the profession and science of Geology, with specific emphasis to exploration and production of petroleum and natural gas. Secondary related objectives include the dissemination of pertinent geological and environmental technological data, and the maintenance of a high standard of professional conduct of its members. The full history of the Society can be found at nogs.org.

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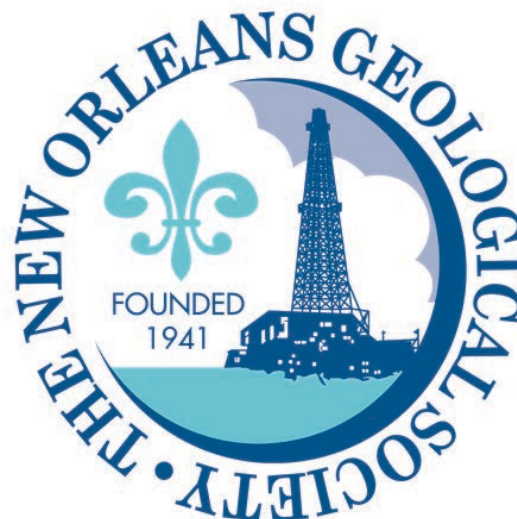
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DRILL BITS

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES BY AL BAKER

During February 2020, the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) approved 65 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) drilling permits. Twenty of these were for shelf wells, and 45 were for deepwater wells. Of the total number of permits, there were 6 new well permits. Five were issued in deepwater, and 1 on the shelf.

The single shelf new well permit was for a development well. W & T Offshore received the new well permit for their East Cameron 349 #1 well.

The 5 deepwater new well permits were for 4 exploration wells and 1 development well. The exploration wells included 2 new well permits awarded to EnVen Energy Ventures for their Green Canyon 166 #SS-1 and 767 #SS-1 wells. Walter Oil & Gas received a permit for their Mississippi Canyon 881 #1 well, and Anadarko Petroleum was awarded a permit for their Keathley Canyon #9 well. The development well permit was given to Kosmos Energy Gulf of Mexico for their Mississippi Canyon #3 well.

On February 28th, IHS-Petrodata indicated that the GoM mobile offshore rig supply stood at 68, which is 1 less than last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of 40 rigs, of which 31 were under contract. The marketed rig supply and the contracted rig supply numbers are both the same as last month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate stood at 45.6%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stood at 77.5%. By comparison, the February 2019 total fleet utilization rate stood at 44.3% with 31 rigs under contract out of the 70 rigs in the fleet.

As of February 28th, BakerHughes reported that there are 22 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoM, which is 55% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. This active rigs number is the same as reported last month. Currently, there are 2 rigs drilling on the shelf and 20 in deepwater.

As of February 28th, the BakerHughes total U.S. rig count stood at 790 rigs, which is the same number reported at the end of December 2019. Of the 790 rigs, 678 (85.8%) are oil rigs and 110 (13.9%) are gas rigs. A year ago, there were 1038 rigs working in the U.S. Thus, the current rig figure represents a 23.9% decrease in rigs year over year. Texas continues to have the largest number of rigs presently with 401, which is over half (50.8%) of the total number of rigs in the U. S. Louisiana has a total of 49 rigs, down 2 rigs from last month. Nationwide, Louisiana ranks fourth in the rotary rig count. New Mexico ranks second with 115 rigs, and North Dakota ranks third with 52 rigs.

NOGS 2020

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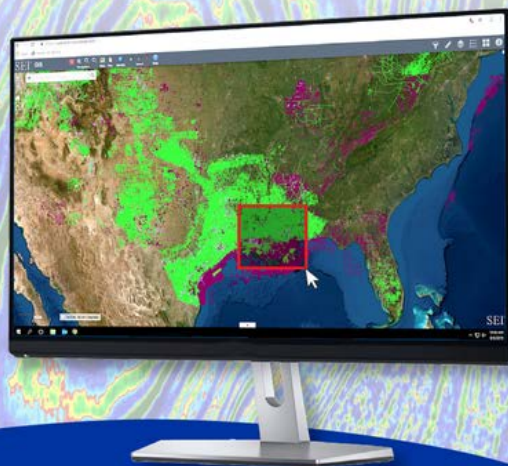
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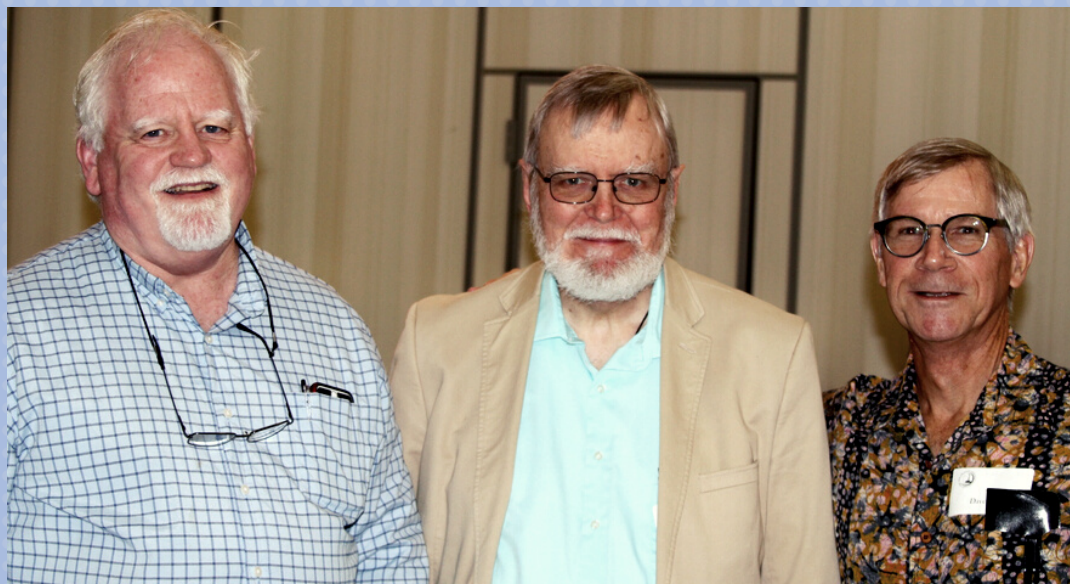
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**Guest Speaker
John Johnson**



Mark Wojna, Mike Fein, Tim Klibert



**Rex Tillerson with
Ethics statement**

NOGS March 2020 Luncheon



NOGS JUDGES: DAVE REITER, DARBY REITER, LEANNE SALATHE AND MIKE FEIN

On Tuesday, February 11th, and Wednesday February 12th, NOGS judged Junior Division and Senior Division projects at the Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair held at Tulane University.

NOGS FINDS WINNERS AT 2020 REGION 9 SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

On February 11th and 12th, NOGS judged Junior Division and Senior Division Earth Science exhibits at the Region 9 Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair at Tulane. My fellow judges for the opening day were Eric Broadbridge, Darby Reiter, Dave Reiter, and John Dribus. On Day two, Senior Division exhibit day, fellow judges were Darby Reiter, Dave Reiter, and Leanne Salathe. Thanks so much to all of you for great ideas and deliberations.

Four students shared the \$250 in cash prizes. We awarded only a second and a third prize in each division because we felt the exhibit quality did not measure up to the standards NOGS members expect to see.

The "Boucvalt Effect" was not unfelt this year. NOGS second-place Senior exhibit was done by Madalin Fortmayer, a John Curtis student. The project was titled "Why were the Steel Pilings Left Unpainted in the New Orleans Levees after Katrina?"

The third-place Senior exhibit was done by Peyton Madere of Holy Cross, "Efficiency of Minerals". This was a strength project.

In the Junior Division, the second-place Junior winner was Spencer Newton of Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy. He did a good erosion study, "A Better Way to Stop Erosion."

The third-place winner was Amaya Grace Kincaid of St. Andrew's Episcopal School, who studied "Commercial Landscaping and the Uptake of Carbon," a unique and innovative idea for our region.

At some time, the Board and I will discuss the status of Science Fair awards and the paucity of geology being taught in the schools. There may be things we can do.

Submitted by:
Mike Fein