



May 2006

Los Angeles Basin Geological Society Newsletter

May 25 Meeting: Dr. Susan Hough – USGS, Pasadena Earthquake Center
Will speak on

Putting Seismology on the Map in Southern California: *The Early Days of Earthquake Exploration*

Speaker Synopsis / Abstract

Following the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 geologists followed the trace of not only the surface rupture, but nearly the full extent of the San Andreas fault. As the population of the greater Los Angeles region began to grow in the early decades of the 20th century, business leaders downplayed the earthquake hazard, pointing to the (supposed) absence of faults in the immediate area. As Charles Richter would later observe, the 1933 Long Beach earthquake had one silver lining: it put an end to all such nonsense, and forced citizens and public officials in southern California to start to come to grips with earthquake hazard. But while earthquake engineering did not begin in southern California until the 1930s, the roots of earthquake science are at least a decade older. This talk will describe the efforts made by southern California's earthquake pioneers, beginning with Harry Oscar Wood in 1921, to launch monitoring efforts in the region and, ultimately, to develop world-class seismological research institutions.

Wood, Benioff, Richter, Gutenberg -- you know the names, but do you know their stories?

Susan Hough received a Bachelors degree with honors in geophysics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1982. She received a Ph.D. in Earth sciences from Scripps Institution of Oceanography, a department of the University of California at San Diego, in 1987. She has subsequently worked at Columbia University in New York, returning to California in 1992 to join the United States Geological Survey in Pasadena. Dr. Hough has served as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Geophysical Research and is currently Editor-in-Chief for the journal Seismological Research Letters.

Dr. Hough's research has focused broadly on the nature of earthquake wave propagation within the earth, and the nature of earthquake sources. Her study on the collapsed Nimitz Freeway was published in Nature magazine in 1990; an evaluation of long-term seismic hazard in the Los Angeles region was published in Science magazine in 1996. In recent years, her reinterpretation of original accounts of the 1811-1812 New Madrid earthquakes—which has focused on the historical context of the observations—has yielded important new insights about this remarkable and intriguing earthquake sequence.

Dr. Hough has written a number of articles on earthquakes for a non-specialist audience, including "Op-ed" pieces for the Los Angeles Times and several articles for Natural History and American Scientist magazines.

Dr. Hough has published three books: "Earthshaking Science," a treatise on earthquake science written for a non-specialist audience, "Finding Fault in California," and "After the Earth Quakes: Elastic Rebound on an Urban Planet," co-authored with Professor Roger Bilham. A fourth book will be published in the fall of 2006: "Richter's Scale: Measure of an Earthquake, Measure of a Man".

WE'LL BE THERE



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Time, Place, Cost and Reservations

Time:

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Typical Meeting Agenda

Lunch Served: 11:30 AM to 12:00PM

Announcements: 11:50 AM to 12:15 PM

Guest Speaker: 12:15 PM to 12:45 PM

Place:

The Grand at Willow Street Conference Center located at 4101 East Willow Street, Long Beach, CA. (562-426-0555). Take Lakewood Boulevard south from the San Diego Freeway (405), turn west onto Willow Street and turn right onto Grand Avenue at the sign for the Center. Park free in the garage structure.

Cost:

Lunch and Speaker: \$20.00 with reservations
\$25.00 without reservations
Student: \$ 5.00 (Lunch and Speaker)

Meeting Reservations:

Make your reservations using our web site at www.labgs.org, emailing iaburto@breitburn.com or calling Ivan Aburto at (213) 225-5900 ext. 234. **Reservations must be made prior to Tuesday** before the meeting, but walk-ons are always welcome.

Upcoming 2006 Speaker Schedule

May 25, 2006 - The speaker will be **Dr. Susan Hough** speaking on "Putting Seismology on the Map in Southern California: The Early Days of Earthquake Exploration".

June 22, 2006 - The speaker will be **Dick Brown** speaking on "Tom Dibblee - Field Geology's Grand Master".

If you have a speaker suggestion, please mention it to a Board member.

The exact titles for these talks may change. See the current Newsletter for the most complete info.

LABGS Future Meetings

Lunch meetings are held at *The Grand at Willow Street Conference Center in Long Beach, California*. Lunch starts at 11:30 AM.

LABGS and the 2007 AAPG Convention field trips

The LABGS has offered to lead five field trips in conjunction with the national meeting. If you have an interest and experience in field trips in the SoCal area please contact an officer to inquire about our needs. We are thinking of day-trips to these areas:

Catalina Island Geology
The Deep LA Basin Geology in the Santa Monica Mts
Palos Verde Peninsula Geology
Los Angeles Urban Geology
San Gabriel Valley Near Surface
Water Contamination Issues

DAVID B. DEL MAR
Consulting Petroleum Geologist
California Registered Geologist #634
Development - Thermal EOR - Property Reviews

2027 Park Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90026

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dbdelmar@earthlink.net

Announcements / Information

2006 Student Recognition Awards

The Los Angeles Basin Geological Society offers two annual scholarship awards as a form of encouragement and recognition to those College students who show dedication and passion to the field of Geoscience. It is our goal to help future geoscientists on in their pursuits. Both of these awards consist of a Brunton Compass and a wall certificate.

Your Name Here!

Advertising in newsletters is available!

Advertising rates for a business card size ad is \$90 for one year (9 issues). These fees help offset our publishing costs. If interested please contact a Board member.

The LABGS Brunton Award

The LABGS Brunton Award is given to a qualified undergraduate student attending a four-year LA Basin College or University currently pursuing a baccalaureate degree in Geology or the Earth Sciences. The Society is currently looking for qualified applicants for the 2006 award.

SELECTION PROCESS

The above award winner was selected from candidates nominated by a faculty member. The winner was selected based on the following criteria:

- Grade point average in earth science classes.
- An enthusiastic or special recommendation from the college advisor, department chair, or mentor professor

LABGS Publication List

1. Guidebook from the 2004 LABGS Field Trip Examining the Catalina Schist and the Palos Verdes Peninsula. **\$20.** The book is 179 pages and printed in color. There is enough detail to allow you to recreate the trip on your own.
2. Neotectonics and Coastal Instability, Orange and Northern San Diego Counties, California - CD VERSION from the *2000 PSAAPG and WRSPE Field Trip Guidebook*. **\$28.**

For Information regarding these publications, contact Ivan Aburto – His email is accessible from our web site at www.labgs.org

LABGS T-Shirts ON SALE

The LABGS sells T-Shirts to generate additional funds to help support our scholarship and field trip activities. The shirt display's the LABGS logo on the Back with the words "LA Rocks" on the Front. The Price for shirts are \$15.00 and available at our luncheon meetings or by contacting Ivan Aburto (see contact list in this newsletter). Sizes are limited to Medium, Large, and Extra Large.

Renew Your Annual Dues and Address Changes

The Pacific Section AAPG and LABGS operate on a fiscal year from July 1 to June 30. If you are a current member, you will receive a PSAAPG membership renewal notice this month in the mail. Please note, when you renew you are renewing for both LABGS and PSAAPG (for one low price of \$12).

If you haven't done so, take this opportunity to send in a check and update your mailing information. New directories will be printed in the winter of 2006 and will be included in your dues for the next fiscal year (the directory is one of the key benefits of joining the LABGS through PSAAPG).

Not a Member you say!!! Join and get on the LABGS Membership / Mailing List

Become a member of the LABGS and enjoy the benefits of membership. Our goal is to provide a value added service to the geologic community of the LA area at a reasonable cost. If you join the LABGS you also become a member of the PSAAPG and vice versa. The purpose of this is to reduce waste and duplicated effort. Check out the membership form for a list of the dual membership benefits. Membership is our primary source of income so I urge you all to join or renew. **To join or renew**, fill out the attached membership form and mail it in to PSAAPG or better yet bring it to the next meeting. This will ensure you are on our lists and the only way you can request a hard copy through the mail. The use of E-mail is our preferred method of distribution so please make sure we have your address.

President's Note

To all of our members,

The LABGS speaker schedule continues with a great talk this month on The History of Earthquake Research in Southern California, presented by Dr. Susan Hough of the USGS – Pasadena Earthquake Center.

In conjunction with next month's Tom Dibblee talk by Dick Brown, the LABGS will do a limited 1:1 matching of donations from members to the Dibblee Foundation in Santa Barbara. More info will be available soon on the program.

We are also still searching to replace two individuals that have greatly contributed over the years to our Society. Our stellar Program Chair, Dick Brown, and Secretary, Ivan Aburto, are both leaving. If you have recommendations, or if you would like to place your name in the hat, please submit the name(s) to one of our officers.

Thanks!

Jon

Contact Us – The LABGS Board

President: Jon Kuespert (213) 225-5900
jkuespert@breitburn.com

Program Chair: Dick Brown (562) 598-0595
dickbrowngeo@adelphia.net

Secretary: Ivan Aburto (213) 225-5900, ext. 234
iaburto@breitburn.com

Treasurer: Steve Zigan, (949) 355-4467
szigan@eri-us.com

OUR WEB SITE ADDRESS IS:
www.labgs.org

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Los Angeles Basin Geological Society Membership Form

Join the LABGS and become a member of the Pacific Section AAPG all for one low price of \$12.00 per year - 2 West Coast Geoscience Organizations for the price of one



Membership Benefits

- LABGS Membership
- Monthly Luncheon Meetings with Strong Technical Programs
- Pacific Section AAPG Membership
- Pacific Section AAPG Bi-Monthly Newsletter
- Discounts for PSAAPG Bookstore Publications
- Bi-Annual West Coast Geoscience Directory - *next edition 6/03*
- Networking and Social Opportunities with Fellow Geoscientists

Current Annual LABGS/PSAAPG Dues

1 Year Option = \$12.00 \$ _____
 3 Year Option = \$36.00 \$ _____

Extended E-Mail Announcement List Fees

To receive meeting notices from SJGS and CGS

1 Year Option = \$12.00 \$ _____
 3 Year Option = \$36.00 \$ _____

PSAAPG Foundation Contributions

B. Hacker Publication Fund \$ _____
 Martin Van Couvering Fund \$ _____
 Dibble Map Foundation \$ _____
 California Well Sample Repository \$ _____
 John Kilkenny Scholarship Fund \$ _____
 PSAAPG Foundation Trust Fund \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Essential Member Information

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Middle Initial _____

E-Mail Address _____

Mail Address _____

Res or Bus ? _____

Additional Directory Information

Employer _____

Position / Title _____

Bus Phone # _____

Res Phone # _____

Fax Phone # _____

Spouse's Name _____

Education _____ *Highest Degree* _____ *Year*

School _____

Signature _____

Annual membership is handled through PSAAPG and runs from July 1, through June 30. If you are already a current member of PSAAPG and you selected LABGS affiliation you are already a member of the LABGS.

**Please Make Checks out to PSAAPG and mail along with member form to:
 PSAAPG P.O. Box 1072, Bakersfield, CA 93302**