

Minutes of the Ninth Meeting of The Americas Petroleum Survey Group May 23, 2002

**Convened at the GIS Department of the Houston Community College
– Stafford Campus, Houston, Texas**

The ninth meeting of the APSG was opened with a welcome to the HCC Stafford Campus by Mr. Ken Russell. Mr. Russell gave a briefing to all on emergency egress procedures. The meeting was then officially commenced by the Chair, Mr. George Buhler. Mr. Buhler recognized first-timers, guests and welcomed all. Individual introductions were made around the table. A complete list of attendees and the accepted meeting agenda is here entered into the record:

List of Attendees

Aiken, John	Conoco
Barnes, Michael	Thales Geosolutions
Barrs, Barry	ExxonMobil Exploration
Beattie, Hugh	Exploration Geodesy
Berls, Norm	Schlumberger
Buhler, George	BP
Cain, Jim	Hydrosearch
Carter, Bruce	BP
Clark, John	Leica
Crozier, Kevin	PGS
Hillman, Barry	Condor Earth Technologies
Karko, Bish	Ensoco
Lopez, Chuck	BP
Maultsby, Tony	Conoco
Moreau, Pete	Anadarko
Morse, John	Hydrosearch
Ross, Dave	Laser Scanning Technology
Russell, Ken	Houston Community College
Shipp, Shorty	Trimble Navigation
Smith, Jim	Leica
Van Metre, Scott	Phillips Petroleum

APSG 9 - May 23, 2002
Agenda

8:30	Coffee	
9:00	Welcome APSG8 Minutes Review	George L Buhler Jr
9:15	Appointments Elections	George L Buhler Jr Hugh Beattie
9:45	Membership Committee Report Education Committee Report	Barry Barrs George L Buhler Jr
9:30	APSG Web Site \ Catrographic Reference	Norm Berls
10:30	Break	
10:45	Real-Time GPS Monitoring Condor Earth Technologies	Barry Hillman
11:45	BBQ Lunch	
13:00	GIS Education	Ken Russell
	Goings On:	
14:00	Petroleum User Group (PUG) Conference 2002 Summary	Chuck Lopez
14:15	EPSG Summary EPSG database (v6.1 & v5.3)	Jim Cain
14:45	FIG\ACSM 2002 Summary	Bruce Carter
15:00	Open Floor\Other Business Action Items Next Meeting	All
16:00	Adjourn	

Due to the absence of Mr. Dean Mikkelsen, Mr. Bish Karko agreed to keep minutes of the meeting.

Mr. George Buhler Jr circulated the minutes of APSG 8. There was a brief discussion followed by acceptance from the Chair.

Mr. Hugh Beattie conducted elections for the 2002 – 2003 Executive Committee.

Elected were:

Chair : Mr. Hugh Beattie

Vice Chair : Mr. Kevin Crozier

Secretary : Mr. Bish Karko

Reports on the status of the standing committees followed.

Mr. George Buhler led the discussion on membership of the Education Committee.

Mr. Norm Berls, Mr. Ken Russell, Mr. Martin Rayson and Jon Stigant will continue as Committee members. Mr. Barry Barrs proposed a backup for Mr. Jon Stigant, due to his busy schedule. Mr. Jimmy Cain and Mr. Michael Barnes offered to assist as required.

Mr. Barry Barrs then led the discussion on APSG membership and the membership of the Membership Committee.

Mr. Stewart Evans had resigned, due to his repatriation to the UK. However, he is to remain on the active list, and participate when in Houston.

There is a general fluctuation in the business, with people changing. Effort to reestablish contact with members that have been absent.

APSG membership application options to be considered, either to be arranged via email, or set up an application on the APSG website.

An option for a two level membership system, full active members and associates with no voting rights.

Mr. Dave Ross proposed that membership dues be considered, which are still not required by APSG or the EPSG organization.

Mr. Jim Cain commented that although the Groups name include 'Americas', nothing has yet been done to contact South American companies. To consider having meetings out of Houston, combined with GeoForum seminars.. How best to maintain the strength and expertise of the Group.

Mr. Bruce Carter proposed closer arrangements with other organizations, promoting APSG within groups such as the ACSM. Holding more frequent small group meetings and larger presentation meetings.

Mr. Barry Barrs concluded that with all the ideas, members to be polled on interest in the Group and on membership action.

Mr. Norm Berls led the discussion on the APSG website.

The web site became public on May 15th at the web address of www.apsg.info, which is under the texas.net site.

Graphics still need to be cleaned up.

Cartographic Reference now included on the web site.

Reality Check on picking projection and datum data included on website.

Java applets demonstrated.

Future web proposals and developments were discussed.

Worked examples of geodetic programs for view.

Downloading of large file, would require big bandwidth.

Possibilities of generating hard copies.

Possibility of discussion forum.

References, like discussion of units.

Links to other sites.

Mr. George Buhler proposed that Disclaimer and Copyright Notices are treated as a priority issue.

Mr. Hugh Beattie then thanked Mr. Norm Berls for the effort put into getting the APSG website up and running.

The meeting then broke for refreshments and informal discussions.

The meeting resumed with a presentation by Mr. Barry Hillman of Condor Earth Technologies on their Real Time GPS Monitoring system.

Mr. Hillman described the system, its application and the customer base. In periods over 24 hours, impressive results were obtained of 1 – 3mm in the horizontal plane and 2 – 4mm in the vertical plane over short base lines. On long baselines of 111Kms, 4mm results were obtained with 1.4 cms on baseline a baseline length of 221Kms. The system employs a new tropospheric model from Ben Remondi.

At approximately 12:00 the group recessed for a BBQ lunch.

The meeting resumed in the HCC GIS room, where Mr. Ken Russell presented to the Group the status of GIS education.

There is a shortage of young students in GIS, and most students are mature and well qualified in other disciplines.

HCC curriculum has been adopted as official by Texas State.

Limited college courses available for GIS, and in wrong place. Difficult to get to.

Biggest interest is in GIS with mobile GPS, tracking moving assets.

GIS courses need improved material in Geodesy, understanding and use of datums and projections.

Mr. Russell concluded with information that he had written a text on Geodesy, that APSG could evaluate.

Mr. Chuck Lopez followed with the next item in the agenda, a summary of the 2002 ESRI Petroleum User Group (PUG) conference, held in Houston during March.

Major changes continued in ArcView and ArcInfo were described. All versions in the 8+ series now share a common framework and structure. The differences between the versions is the different levels of functionality made available, which depends on the license purchased.

New developments are in Microsoft Com Object, for cross platform comparability.

Abstracts were published of the Industry presented papers

ESRI workshops were presented by different bodies, with some available online.

USGS and BLM put their National Oil and Gas assessment online, using ArcIMS.

PUG is identifying certified trainers of ESRI GIS software in Houston.

Mr. Pete Moreau, who is on the PUG steering committee proposed APSG having a booth(free) at the PUG conferences, displaying Geodetic topics.

This was followed by an update on EPSG V6.1 by Mr. Jim Cain. This version meets ISO standards ISO CD 1911 and ISO CD 19127 and users should migrate to it.

Mr. Cain states that EPSG is considering on web processing, this would require a GIS front end, to be worked by all volunteers.

A group discussion followed on the PUG and EPSG topics.

A possible call for joint APSG/EPSCG papers to be given at the PUG.

The APSG Cartographic Reference has had positive feedback.

Further education aspects were brought up with suggestions that members forward material.

Proposed meeting at PUG , with Landmark and Geoquest, together with Blue Marble to address correct GIS data management.

Mr. Barry Barrs suggested that APSG companies, whose users interact with Landmark and Geoquest, join with APSG in talking, or each writing a letter, to these companies specifying problems.

Some criticism was made as to the poor response from these software companies on reported shortcomings of their geodetic/GIS components.

Mr. Bruce Carter the followed, giving a summary of the FIG/ACSM 2002 convention.

Varied Technical presentations were made.

Continuing Education programs were a major issue, with much focus on GIS.

A great exhibit on surveying tools, both hardware and software.

4000+ attendees.

Urissa is setting up a GIS certification program via the web, still in development stage.

Discussions with ACSM have considered APSG joining ASCM as a group. Favorable reaction from ACSM, but no commitment from APSG.

The floor was now opened for general discussion.

Mr. Michael Barnes described the upcoming Offshore Survey Workshop to be held in Houston and Lake Conroe, 21st – 25th October, under commercial auspices. The workshop is targeting engineers and geoscientists, with both lectures and hands on demonstrations. Presenters are from Flagship, with retired navy personnel, as well as industry stalwarts.

Mr. Barnes emphasized that instructors had to be cognizant with ‘the law of the sea’ and international boundary delimitation... quoting “Oil under troubled waters’.

Concerned was voiced with trends in E business, in tendering and bidding for professional services, online. Degradation of standards and quality, with low price becoming the only consideration.

Further comments were made regarding specific problems with Landmark/Geoquest software, that bug reports should be submitted individually, not as APSG or EPSG.

Mr. Barry Barrs proposed cooperating with EPSG on assembling a list of common positioning problems in software, and distributing it amongst member companies for action.

Mr. George Buhler volunteered to talk with Mr. Roger Lott of EPSG for his feedback.

Mr. Barry Barrs volunteered to email, to members, information he had seen on GPS INDOORS, which was of interest to members.

Mr. John Morse then requested members for ideas on the call for papers on offshore surveying, he had received from the OTC.

With the uncertain schedules of most members present, it was decided to defer the arrangements of date and location of the 10th APSG meeting.

The chair then thanked Mr. Ken Russell, and HCC for hosting this meeting.