



The Hammer

Newsletter of the Geological Society of Trinidad and Tobago

November 2002

P.O. Box 3524, La Romain, Trinidad and Tobago W.I.

www.gstt.org

GSTT Annual General Meeting, October 2nd, 2002

The Annual General Meeting of the Geological Society of Trinidad and Tobago was held on Wednesday October 2nd, 2002 at the Trinidad and Tobago Institute of Technology, Brechin Castle Couva. The outgoing president Dr. Krishna Persad chaired the meeting.



A lighter moment at the Annual General Meeting, TTIT building, Couva.



Incoming President Derek Smith (left) and outgoing President, Krishna Persad at the Annual General Meeting.

Dr. Persad's outgoing report highlighted some of the activities over the past year, including a number of Technical Sessions and short courses, Annual Petroleum Conference and joint seminar with SPE and the Ministry of

Energy. Other highlights included a seminar put on by the GSTT for Geography teachers in the Ministry of Education, a family day and field trip.

In April this year, the GSTT hosted Ms. Robbie Gries, President of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Also of significance was the launch of the National Energy Business Alliance to coincide with 100 years celebration of the Petroleum Industry in July. The Society celebrated the 100 year milestone by producing a supplement in the Trinidad Guardian entitled "Oil Industry 100th Anniversary". Other activities for the past year can be referenced in the Society's website and past issues of this newsletter.

Dr. Persad's report was followed by the much anticipated financial report from the treasurer, Ms. Cindy Arjoon. The main event of the evening was the election of the new executive committee for the 2002-2003 terms. Mr. Mahendra Nath was given the task to ensure free and fair elections, and as usual, he ensured that the process went smoothly. The incoming President, Mr. Derek Smith, then outlined his plans for the upcoming year. The evening ended with a vote of thanks from Ms. Carol Telemaque, followed by light discussions over drinks and eats.

The new executive committee for 2002-2003 comprise:

President: Mr. Derek Smith

1st Vice President: Mr. Stanley Wharton

2nd Vice President: Mr. Anthony Paul

Treasurer: Ms. Cindy Arjoon

Secretary: Mr. Curtis Archie
Assistant Secretary: Ms. Sushma Chatelal
Company Representative/PRO: Ms. Helena Inniss
Immediate Past President: Dr. Krishna Persad



Some of the attendees to the AGM socialize after the meeting.

Elected officers to AAPG Latin American Region

Election of officers of the AAPG Latin American Region was held in June 2002. The present Executive members for 2002-2004 (two year term) are:

Advisory Council: Felipe Audermard (Venezuela)
President: Marcio Mello (Brazil)
President Elect: Alfredo Guzman (Mexico)
Vice President: Cesar Ardiles (Peru)
Secretary/Treasurer: Stanley Wharton (Trinidad)

The AAPG arranged membership into International Regions and the Latin American Region membership stretches from Mexico to Argentina and the Caribbean. Krishna Persad was also elected as the new GSTT House of Delegates member at the AAPG.

Credit: AAPG Explorer, August 2002
Stanley Wharton

Technical Sessions

Technical sessions are an integral part of the Society's activities. As with previous issues of **The Hammer**, there has always been something to report from that end. The following is a listing of the sessions that were held since the last issue of the 'Hammer'.

- ❑ "Mechanisms for explaining overpressure in sedimentary basins" presented by Dr. Richard Swarbick at the Trinidad Hilton on September 25th 2002.
- ❑ "Applying different Play Concepts to Reservoir Delineation and Characterization in the Red Mango/ Ironhorse/ Cassia area, Columbus Basin, Trinidad", presented by Stanley Wharton of BPTT on Wednesday 11th September 2002.

On October 1st, 2002, Mr. Berend van Hoorn of Shell International E&P presented a technical session entitled, "Geological Setting of Deep Water Petroleum Systems - A Global Comparison" at the Hilton Hotel, Port of Spain.

In addition to the technical sessions, Dr. Richard Swarbick held a short course from September 25-27th on pore pressure prediction methods. The course was well attended by a mix of engineers and geologists who were lectured on topics related to pore pressures in sedimentary rocks.

If you desire to contribute to future technical sessions, contact John Chambers (Venture Production) at jchambers@vptl.co.tt or 868-677-2467. Please refer to the 'On the Calendar' for upcoming technical sessions organized by the GSTT.



**Participants of the Pore Pressure course.
Dr. Swarbick is at left.**

**Short Feature: 50th Anniversary of the
Seismic Research Unit, U.W.I.**

Stacey Selman-Edwards

In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the Seismic Research Unit will be mounting an exhibition at its headquarters in St. Augustine during the month of November. The Seismic Research Unit is the agency responsible for monitoring earthquakes and volcanoes for the English-speaking islands of the Eastern Caribbean including Trinidad and Tobago. This interactive exhibit and tour is designed specifically for secondary school students but the general public is also welcome to attend. The exhibition will provide visitors with information on earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis in the Eastern Caribbean as well as an overview of the functions of the Unit.

Tours will be available on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from November 6th-29th as well as Saturday, November 30th (9:00am-12:00pm). Extended tour hours (until 6pm) will be available November 27th-29th. **Bookings must be made in advance by calling 662-4659.**

On the Calendar

This column features upcoming events and sessions to be held by the GSTT. For further information on any event, contact the Secretariat Administrator, Ms. Gayatri

Maharaj, at gstt@tstt.net or call 868-679-6064.

**GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF TRINIDAD
& TOBAGO**

**ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE &
AWARDS CEREMONY**

Friday 15th November 2002
Ballroom, Trinidad Hilton

**Feature address by the
Honourable Prime Minister,
Patrick Manning**

For booking and information, contact
Gayatri Maharaj at 868-679-6064 or fax
868-761-7670

Technical Sessions

If you are interested in giving a presentation to the Society's members, or if there is a topic you would like to be discussed or presented, please contact John Chambers at Venture Production Company (jchambers@vptl.co.tt).

Family day limes

***Can Geologists and Engineers ever get
along?***

Of course they can! And they did so very well on Saturday October 26th at the GSTT/ SPE Family day lime at the Forest Reserve Staff club. Cricket, All Fours and eating were the activities for the day. Happy to say that our team won both the cricket and the All Fours, with our own treasurer, Ms. Cindy Arjoon, in strong contention for woman of the match (cricket). All had a good time.

The GSTT held their own family day lime on Sunday August 25th at the Beach Camp Club, Palo Seco. The day's activities included a field trip to the Palo Seco mud volcanoes and Lower Cruse outcrops along the coast.



Family day participants at Palo Seco Bay.

Letters to the Editor

Rock Samples for Tranquility Secondary

My name is Andrew Felix. On 30/9/02 I spoke to someone on the phone number ***-**** requesting a few rock samples for my school Tranquility Secondary. She advised that I email and I would possibly be referred to someone who can help. I am looking for samples of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks. My telephone number is 672-3246.

Data on Pitch Lake

My name is Jeanine and I am a Junior at Yale University. I am a Geology major and a Trinidadian. As part of the preliminary research for an independent study that I am undertaking I have to choose one area and identify the particular minerals. I have decided to study the Trinidadian Pitch Lake. However, my attempts to successfully discover the mineral constituents of the Pitch have been limited. While some Internet sites give broad ranges of components I need to know the exact chemical constituents in order to proceed to the next level of my research. I wanted to know if you have any resources: books, paper or even Internet sites that you would recommend. I was also looking at the abstract of the paper "A gravity investigation of the pitch lake of Trinidad and Tobago" by *W. B. Chaitan and V.R. Graterol* available on the publications section of your website

and I wanted to know if I would be able to get a copy of the paper (either in pdf format or if it is available on an online database or a book). There is also another paper "Quantitative Estimates of Tar/ Oil Sand Deposits, Trinidad, West Indies" by Winston T. Rajpaulsingh that looks applicable but the link to the abstract is not working. If you have any information on how the Pitch Lake formed (the underlying rock strata, geology etc) and how the constituent of pitch varies when compared to petroleum deposits that would be helpful. I would appreciate any assistance you can give. If you would like to refer me to certain publications or journals for further information that would be helpful as I realise that much of this data is not available online.

Thank you.

Jeanine K. Mohammed
BK' 04 Yale University
New Haven CT, USA

Thanks for the quick response

I'm not sure to whom I'm speaking, but I just wanted to thank you for your quick response to my inquiry. I have not had much experience dealing with many people "back home" for quite some time. That's what I like about the Internet. There's always someone out there who's got an answer, when you need one! Let me know if I can return the favour sometime.

Ernest Joseph

This letter was in response to queries on slope stability in the Point Fortin area, sent to the Webmaster.

Hats off to the Webmaster

I felt that I should drop you a line to say how impressed I was with your website. I have been working with RGIT Montrose Ltd in Trinidad for the last month, training the offshore and onshore personnel on behalf of BPtt. Part of this training is to give the delegates an introduction to the oil and gas industry in Trinidad and I find your site an

excellent location to keep abreast of current information.

If I may be so bold as to make a suggestion for an addition to your site. I was looking through the history page for specific information, which took sometime. My suggestion is to include a dates page of all significant dates in the history of oil and gas in Trinidad from the very first well or hole to present day that can also, in turn, be cross referenced with the details in the history page should the viewer require additional information.

Many thanks
Derek Donald
Survival and Marine Instructor
Aberdeen



Any ideas?

Any idea what this is, or how it was formed? This particular 'disc' was found on Anglais Point, west of Palo Seco Bay, south coast, Trinidad. They are commonly found nearby mud volcanoes on the south coast. Others have been found at Galfa Point (Cedros). They can be either disc shape, as above, or spherical. They commonly consist of crystals of calcium carbonate (fibrous aragonite and/or replacement calcite) radiating from a central nucleus. Nuclei of oil sand, coal, and porcellanite have been reported. We invite comments and discussion from readers. Findings will be published in the next newsletter. Thanks to Curtis Archie and

Rajendra Maharaj for the descriptions and Laurent DeVerteil for the above photo.

SPE Corner

The VIII Latin American and Caribbean Petroleum Engineering Conference will be held in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago from 27th to 30th April 2003. The theme for this conference is "Energy Frontiers - Challenging the Limits."

For information on the conference, visit the SPE website (<http://www.spe.org/>).

Editorial Note

Welcome to the new executive of the Geological Society of Trinidad and Tobago. We hope that they will continue to build on the good foundation set by previous committees. Once again we are pleased to put forward another issue of **The Hammer**. We apologise for the one month delay in this publication, but hope that the content is sufficiently informative for our readers. If you are a member of the GSTT, we encourage your continued participation. If you are not a member, we encourage you to join our organisation and be part of the geological community of Trinidad and Tobago. Comments and other contributions can be sent to hvincent@energy.gov.tt. To contribute to any of the GSTT's activities, please contact Ms. Gayatri Maharaj at 868-679-6064 or gstt@tstt.net.tt.

Hasley Vincent

Richard Robertson

Footnote: Website statistics

Over the period 1/10/2002 to 25/10/02, the Society's website, <http://gstt.org>, received a total of 41808 visits with an average hit rate per day of 1672. The most popular pages are those with information of mud volcanoes (www.gstt.org/teaching/mud+volcanoes.htm and <http://www.gstt.org/teaching/Devils's+woodyard.htm>). **The Hammer** newsletter accounted for 34.7% of downloads (230 total), making it the most popular downloaded file on the site.

Source: Webtrends monthly report, October 2002.