

AAPG-SPE 2003 Eastern Meeting

**Hosted by
Pittsburgh Association of Petroleum Geologists
Pittsburgh Petroleum Section SPE**

**September 6-10, 2003
Hilton Pittsburgh and Towers
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

Summary Meeting Report

Compiled by

**Douglas G. Patchen
General Co-Chair, 2003 Meeting**

2003 Annual Meeting Planning Committee

General Chairs	Douglas G. Patchen, AAPG Andrew M. Iezzi, SPE
Program Chairs	Michael R. Canich, AAPG Paul J. Dudenas, SPE
Field Trip Chair	John A. Harper, AAPG
Workshop/Short Course Chairs	Douglas G. Patchen, AAPG Michael D. Zuber, SPE
Slide Room/AV Chair	Jeron R. Williamson, AAPG & SPE
Registration Chairs	James M. Wigal and Kathy Flaherty, AAPG Robert W. Garland, SPE
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Hotel Liaisons	James M. Wigal, AAPG Louise Bugna, SPE
Student Job Quest Chairs	Chuck Noll and Katharine Lee Avary, AAPG & SPE
Judging Chair	Katharine Lee Avary, AAPG
ES Awards Chair	Brian D. Keith, AAPG

Acknowledgments

All of the work to plan, organize and implement this first-of-its-kind combined meeting was accomplished in a highly professional manner by the individuals listed above. Without them, this meeting would not have been the success that it was. I sincerely appreciate and publically acknowledge the numerous contributions of this Most Excellent Steering Committee. And furthermore, I truly enjoyed working with them during the 24-month period leading up to the meeting.

- Douglas G. Patchen

Executive Summary

The first-of-its-kind AAPG-SPE 2003 Eastern Meeting was extremely successful, both technically and financially. Total registration was 655, which included 223 AAPG members, 177 SPE members, 74 students (maybe an all-time high), 26 guests and 155 other professionals, mainly exhibitors. These registrants came from 31 different states and four foreign countries. Collectively they paid \$93,155 for fees covering registration, field trips, short courses and workshops, and tickets for the dinner cruise and all-convention luncheon. The meeting generated more than \$207,000 in total income, but the total profit for the meeting was only \$24,632.16.

What originally was envisioned as two cascading meetings at the same location later evolved into two concurrent meetings, and finally into a totally combined meeting of the two societies, with shared technical programs and social events. Papers in the three concurrent technical sessions were organized by themes, and geology and engineering papers were presented in the same sessions when appropriate. In all, 72 papers were presented, along with 12 posters, as part of the Monday and Tuesday technical program. In addition, student posters were presented on Sunday as part of the first-ever Eastern Section Student Job Quest.

Although the meeting was truly combined, each professional society was able to retain traditional events of importance to them. The Eastern Section hosted their traditional Opening Session and Awards Ceremony on Sunday, their annual Eastern Section Council Luncheon on Monday and their Future Technical Meetings Committee over breakfast on Tuesday. AAPG's Chairman of the House of Delegates hosted the traditional breakfast meeting on Monday. SPE held their traditional Eastern Region Officers Luncheon meeting on Monday and agreed to combine their traditional All-Convention Luncheon and Awards with our traditional All-Division luncheon on Tuesday. For ES-AAPG, this marked the first All-Convention Luncheon ever held. However, it was a ticketed event, not included in the registration fee, which is customary in other AAPG sections, and in previous SPE meetings.

Other components of the technical meeting included a pre-meeting field trip to the roots of the oil industry in Pennsylvania on Sunday and short courses/workshops offered by SPE and AAPG on Saturday and Sunday. Following the meeting, a field trip to observe outcrop equivalents of the Trenton Limestone was taken on Wednesday, and an AAPG-PTTC workshop on subsurface fluid pressures was held the same day. Total field trip attendance was 45, with another 37 workshop attendees. The SPE short course drew 5 registrants on Sunday but the two short courses scheduled for Wednesday were canceled due to low pre-registration.

The social program featured a Sunday night Icebreaker and a Monday late afternoon Mini-Breaker followed by a Casino Cruise on Pittsburgh's three rivers. We sold 263 tickets for the cruise and gave away numerous prizes to the lucky winners. The 26 spouses and guests were treated to a free tour of the downtown Pittsburgh area.

The Eastern Section typically hosts an All-Division Luncheon for members of all three divisions, usually with a featured speaker and comments from the three Division Presidents. The

Eastern Region of SPE typically hosts an All-Convention Luncheon and Awards Ceremony, which usually features a paid speaker of national or regional prominence. For this meeting, the two groups agreed to hold one All-Convention luncheon with a featured speaker whose topic would be of interest to all. Dr. David Houseknecht was selected as the keynote speaker and gave a very well-received address on the geology and potential for further discoveries on Federal lands on Alaska's North Slope. A total of 157 tickets were sold for this event.

The two host societies were able to make this a first-class event because they never doubted that they would show a profit. Therefore, the emphasis from the very beginning was to provide as much as we could for a low registration fee, knowing that income from exhibitors and sponsors would ensure a profit.

We set high goals for the number of exhibit booths to be sold and for the amount of money to be raised from sponsors, and challenged our respective committee chairs to meet and exceed these goals. The goals were to sell 60 exhibit booths and raise at least \$40,000 from sponsors. The committee chairs exceeded both goals. Also, our Deal Room chair recruited 9 companies willing to show their deals at our meeting.

The meeting included many first for an Eastern Section meeting: the first time the Eastern Section meeting was combined with SPE's Eastern Regional meeting; the first time an Eastern Section host society hired Conferon to negotiate a hotel contract; the first all-convention luncheon; and the first Student Job Quest.

AAPG has hosted Student Expos in Houston and Oklahoma in recent years, and recently decided to attach smaller expos to the Section meetings. The 2003 Student Job Quest in Pittsburgh was the first of these Sectional events to be held. Approximately 45 students, both in geology and engineering, attended, with about 12 entering a poster in Sunday's competition. Cash awards for first, second and third place posters were made.

Our experience with Conferon was exceptional. Our local Conferon contact set up a tour of the major Pittsburgh hotels, all on the same day, and followed up these tours with individual negotiations. He was able to use his leverage as a person in a company that can bring numerous meetings to a hotel to negotiate very favorable offers from the various Pittsburgh hotels. The Hilton was selected based on their offer of free meeting space, free exhibit space and reduced sleeping room rates. In return, we agreed to sell at least 630 sleeping room nights. This single obligation on our part was not a problem at all.

Two other vendors were used on-site: an audiovisual company and a pipe and drape vendor, both of whom were recommended by the hotel. The audiovisual company was very professional, but problems were encountered with the pipe and drape company.

More than all of the numbers, the main measure of success was that everyone who attended genuinely seemed to be happy - happy with the technical program, happy with the size of the meeting, happy with the number of exhibitors, happy with the social events and just happy with the entire atmosphere of the meeting. The excellent fireworks display above the golden triangle at the junction of the three rivers on Saturday night added to this atmosphere at the very

outset of the meeting. Both of the host societies, the Pittsburgh Association of Petroleum Geologists and the Pittsburgh Section of SPE, were pleased with the combined meeting and have expressed a desire to duplicate, and even exceed, this meeting in 2008.

Therefore, the Steering Committee for the AAPG-SPE 2003 Eastern Meeting formally recommends that the Eastern Section Executive Committee strongly consider awarding the 2008 Eastern Section AAPG meeting to the Pittsburgh Association of Petroleum Geologists as the local host, and furthermore, that the ES Executive Committee endorse the combined meeting concept with SPE in 2008.

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Meeting History

The AAPG-SPE 2003 Eastern Meeting was unique in many ways, and certainly larger in scope than any previous Eastern Section AAPG meeting. As such, it required a longer lead time to plan and organize. This process began in the Spring of 2001, more than 30 months out, when envoys from the Eastern Section made the pilgrimage north to Pittsburgh to meet with the two local AAPG affiliated societies. The purpose of this meeting was to determine their level of interest in hosting or co-hosting the 2003 Eastern Section meeting. After several months of meetings and discussion, the Pittsburgh Association of Petroleum Geologists (PAPG) agreed to host the 2003 meeting, but requested that the Eastern Section Executive Committee consider allowing them to combine the meeting in some way with the Eastern Region Meeting of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE). The President of PAPG at the time, Greg Wrightstone, also asked Doug Patchen to change roles from an interested intermediary to general chairman for the meeting and handle all further negotiations.

PAPG's request to approve a joint meeting with SPE was added to the agenda for the Eastern Section (ES) business meeting in Denver in June 2001. At that meeting, the ES Council voted to "agree in principle" with the concept of a combined AAPG-SPE meeting in Pittsburgh in 2003, subject to receiving satisfactory answers to several questions that were posed at the meeting. Basically, the Council wanted assurance that there would be an equitable division of income, expenses and profit that would be acceptable to both AAPG and SPE. The PAPG was asked to respond, in writing, to these questions before final approval would be granted.

The original concept suggested to the two local host societies was to hold two cascading meetings during the same week at the same location. For example, the Eastern Section meeting would start on Sunday and end Tuesday, with workshops of interest to both groups on the Wednesday "swing day," followed by the SPE meeting on Thursday and Friday. The advantage of such an arrangement would be that exhibitors and other registrants who wished to attend both meetings would only have to make one trip to Pittsburgh, and in the case of exhibitors, set up and tear down only once. However, it soon became apparent that there also was a big disadvantage to this concept: the exhibitors preferred to make two trips and set up and tear down twice rather than sit in the booth for 5 days, one of which would be only a workshop day with few registrants on site.

Based on this unexpected input from potential exhibitors, the two local groups then agreed to hold concurrent meetings at the same time in the same location with shared social events and compatible technical sessions, i.e., all talks would start on the hour and half hour, allowing registrants to switch between meetings. Under the original agreement, separate registration fees could be set by the groups, and all income and expenses would be separated, except for shared social events. An agreement to this effect (see appendix) was drafted and signed by PAPG and national SPE and then submitted to the Eastern Section Executive Committee.

With this agreement between the local host societies in hand, the ES Executive Committee approved the offer by PAPG to host the 2003 meeting in Pittsburgh. An agreement

to that effect was signed by representatives of both parties (see appendix), and the two meeting co-chairs, Douglas Patchen and Andrew Iezzi, began to organize a joint Planning Committee.

A suggestion was received by the general chairs to consider hiring Conferon to run the meeting. Based on an examination of Conferon's fee structure, it was decided to hire them only to negotiate a deal with the host hotel, for which they would be paid a fee by the hotel based on the number of sleeping rooms sold. Thus, their services would be free to the local host societies.

This proved to be an excellent decision. Jeremy Janzen, Conferon's local representative, set up visits to selected hotels in the Pittsburgh area, based on their ability to meet minimum requirements provided to him by the local hosts to hold a meeting of this size. Four hotels were visited, and two were selected for negotiation. Conferon then reached an agreement with our first choice of hotels, the Hilton Pittsburgh and Towers, for free meeting and exhibit space and reduced sleeping room rates in return for selling a specified number of room nights. A contract to this effect was written, setting aside meeting space for September 20-24, 2003. After the contract was signed by AAPG's General Chair it was sent to SPE's national headquarters with a request that it be signed within the 30 day period for which it was to remain a valid offer on the part of the Hilton.

Shortly after the signed contract was received from SPE and submitted to the Hilton through Conferon, AAPG changed the location and dates of their 2003 International Meeting from London in early September to Barcelona from September 20-24. Therefore, it became necessary for us to change our meeting dates.

This process took four months to complete. Even though we were still nearly 20 months out, the Hilton only had two dates available, and the one we originally selected proved to conflict with the national SPE meeting. Ultimately, SPE agreed to the change in dates and Conferon was able to negotiate a new contract with the Hilton (see appendix) that retained all of the original points that were important to us. At the same time, the Hilton agreed to reduce the number of sleeping room nights that we were required to sell from more than 800 to 630, a more conservative figure that again was to our advantage. At several times over the next year and a half, even as late as a few weeks prior to the meeting, the Hilton graciously agreed to provide additional meeting rooms at no cost to us. They are an excellent hotel to work with for a meeting of this size with moving targets for room needs.

At about this same point in time, the two local host societies agreed to combine all aspects of the meeting into one truly combined meeting with shared social events and technical program. The two components of the Planning Committee, the one for AAPG and the one for SPE, were combined into one large committee with chairs from both groups complementing each other, and we went to work.

Registration

More than a year into the process, we still were missing two key members of the

Planning Committee: Registration Chairs for AAPG and SPE. Fortunately, Abarta Oil and Gas agreed to allow Jim Wigal and Kathy Flaherty to share this responsibility for AAPG and Bob Garland stepped forward for SPE. This strong trio was joined by Jeron Williamson, who agreed to set up the on-line registration feature as part of the meeting website.

Our early decision to provide an on-line registration option proved to be both popular and successful, especially after our Registration Chairs arranged for payment through PayPal. Of the more than 450 pre-registrants, nearly half registered and paid on-line, while 244 printed the registration form and mailed it with a check. More than 150 registered on-site, but again, our ability to accept credit cards on-site proved to be an advantage. To accept credit cards on-site required that we make arrangements with a local bank and pay them for this service. Our total costs were \$885 for PayPal, \$95 to set up an account with the local bank, and \$326 to accept credit cards on-site. For a meeting of this magnitude, these costs were considered minimal when compared to the advantages they provided.

The final registration total, adjusted for cancellations for which registration fees were reimbursed, was 655. This total included 223 AAPG members, 177 SPE members, 74 students, 155 non-members of either professional society, most of who were exhibitors, and 26 guests and spouses. Of these, 230 pre-registered on-line and 244 pre-registered through the mail. The 26 guests and spouses who were registered with a pre-registrant brought the final pre-registration total to an even 500. On-site registration accounted for the other 155. Registrants came to the meeting from 31 states, Canada and two overseas countries, Kuwait and Taiwan. Two Nigerians who pre-registered were no-shows.

Income from registration fees was \$65,500. Registrants paid an additional \$27,655 for field trips, the workshop and short course, and the all-convention luncheon and dinner cruise.

We would anticipate that the number of student registrations will continue to increase over the next several years as students in the Eastern Section become more aware of the Student Job Quest and associated poster competition.

For a registration summary and a complete registration list, see the Appendix.

Technical Program

Our initial goal was to attract between 700 and 800 AAPG and SPE members and exhibitors to Pittsburgh for this combined meeting. To accomplish this, we knew that we would have to develop a very strong technical program, complemented by an attractive social program. The Planning Committee agreed as a group on themes to target in our Call for Abstracts, and even though separate Calls for Abstracts were mailed by the two host societies, the theme topics listed were the same in both.

The key component of the technical program was envisioned as a session which would contain both geologic and engineering papers describing Case Histories and Field Studies. Unfortunately, not enough papers were volunteered to make this session as large as planned, and

we were not as successful in recruiting the combination of geologic and engineering studies of the same field as we had hoped.

Our original plans also called for four concurrent sessions at all times, two in geology and two in engineering, for a grand total of 16 half-day sessions. However, the SPE technical program committee rejected approximately 50 of 80 abstracts received, leaving them with only enough talks for 5 half-day sessions, not the 8 that we needed. In addition, the AAPG technical program chair only received and was able to recruit enough abstracts for 7 half-day sessions, leaving us with a total of 12, and three concurrent sessions, not four. Given the smaller than hoped for technical program, it became obvious that we needed to supplement the technical sessions with strong poster sessions, field trips, short courses and workshops to attract enough registrants to meet our registration goal.

Originally, the only session that was to contain both geologic and engineering papers was the one on Case Histories and Field Studies. However, as the abstracts came in, the two Technical Program Chairs, working together, identified numerous papers on the same or similar themes that were submitted by both AAPG and SPE members. Therefore, it was decided to totally combine the meeting, even the technical program, by placing talks of a similar nature in the same session, regardless of the designation of the session as AAPG or SPE. This created a minor problem for Lee Avary and her volunteer judges, who needed to distinguish between an AAPG paper that should be judged and an SPE paper that should not, but the use of SPE numbers by the titles in the Program and Abstracts solved this problem for them. We also were careful to designate EMD and DEG sessions, again for the convenience of judges who selected best papers in both divisions.

Costs associated with the technical program include the costs of printing and mailing the call for papers and conference preview, printing the program and abstracts and burning a CD of the same, and the cost of the Audiovisual vendor that we hired. The AV vendor was excellent. These costs totaled approximately \$53,700, which includes the speakers' breakfast and the all-convention luncheon. The luncheon cost \$5600, but we sold 157 tickets to hear the excellent speaker, Dr. David Houseknecht, discuss geology and petroleum potential of federal lands on Alaska's north slope. So, the luncheon generated a small profit of nearly \$700.

Field Trips

Two AAPG field trips were offered, one before the meeting on Sunday and one after the meeting on Wednesday, and both were successful. According to John Harper, Field Trip Chair, both trips "had a net monetary gain, very enthusiastic attendees, and good feedback." (See appendix.)

Kathy Flaherty organized and led the Sunday trip, *Hills, Dales & Oil Trails*, that examined the remnants of the early oil industry in this historic basin. Ms. Flaherty summarized the trip as small but successful, and believes that competition with the Opening Session & Awards Ceremony probably reduced the number of participants.

John Harper organized the Wednesday trip, *Trenton and Black River Carbonates of the Union Furnace Area in Blair and Huntington Counties, Pennsylvania*, which was led by him, Chris Laughery and other members of the Pennsylvania Geologic Survey. This trip was so popular that it sold out even before the pre-registration deadline. In reality, a second bus probably could have been filled for this trip. Because the trip was so popular, the leaders agreed to run the trip strictly for local geologists at a later date, making more room available for registrants from out of the immediate area on this trip. In his report, Dr. Harper noted that registrants on the trip came from 10 Eastern Section states and Canada, a very good cross section of the Eastern Section of AAPG.

The Sunday trip to the roots of the oil industry broke even and the Trenton trip made a small profit. Together, the profit for PAPG was \$707.

For separate reports on both trips, see the Appendix.

Workshops

Two AAPG workshops were organized, one a free Sunday workshop and the second a low-cost Wednesday workshop that was underwritten financially by the Petroleum Technology Transfer Council's Appalachian Basin Regional Lead Organization. The Sunday workshop on "*Rock-Based Integration*" was designed for geologists, geophysicists, drilling engineers and reservoir engineers, many of whom may use workstations, and all of whom are expected to integrate their data with data from the other disciplines. The rock-based integration approach relates all data to the basic rock properties of lithology, porosity and fluids. A seismic petrophysics approach integrates information from well logs, seismic inversion, AVO analysis and seismic velocity analysis to extract the required rock properties (lithology, porosity, fluids).

This free workshop attracted 19 registrants, even though it was competing with the Student Job Quest Poster Session, the field trip to the roots of the oil industry and the Steelers football game across the river. Our total cost was only \$394, for lunch at the Hilton.

The Wednesday PTTC workshop on "*Subsurface Fluid Pressures and Their Relation to Oil and Gas Generation, Migration and Accumulation*" was a low-cost alternative to the same workshop that was offered at the Salt Lake City national AAPG meeting in May. The instructor included specific examples from the Trenton-Black River Play and the Clinton Play.

The workshop cost the PAPG a total of \$1511 for breakfast, lunch and two breaks. PTTC paid the speaker's expenses and fee, and for the cost of duplicating the workshop notebooks. The workshop took in \$1350 in registration fees, so PAPG's loss was \$161.

Short Courses

The local SPE Chapter organized three short courses, one on Saturday and Sunday and the other two on Wednesday. The weekend short course on "*3-D Seismic for Engineers*"

attracted 5 registrants, who paid a total of \$3500 in registration fees. Total costs for breakfast and breaks was \$502, so the engineers made a nice profit from this 2-day short course.

The Wednesday short courses were canceled due to a low pre-registration turnout. However, we are not sure that everyone got the word that they had been canceled. The PTTC workshop attendees included several people who were not on the registration list who may have thought they were at one of these short courses.

Student Job Quest

The Student Job Quest was an unqualified success. This first-of-its kind event in the Eastern Section was an outgrowth of the very successful Student Expos that have been held in Houston, TX and Norman, OK in recent years. Last year, AAPG decided to make an attempt to have similar events for students at each of the domestic section meetings, and appointed Chuck Noll as Chairman of a new committee to bring this concept to reality. Subsequently, Chuck and several of the national AAPG officers met with members of our Planning Committee in Champaign last year to go over ground rules for the event. At that meeting, it was necessary to convince the national group that this event would have to conform to our meeting schedule and available space. To that end, we provided them with a weekend schedule that we thought we could accommodate at this late date. This schedule was for Saturday and Sunday, not for Friday and Saturday as the national group had requested.

The immediate problem that we had as a Planning Committee was that all of the previous Student Expos had been held as stand-alone events where the organizers had free reign to book event space for the convenience of the students on Friday and Saturday and make all arrangements for meals, receptions, etc. However, in our case, we already had a signed contract with the Hilton for the dates and rooms we expected to need, and now found ourselves in a situation where we needed additional space, not only on Sunday, but also on Saturday night, and we definitely could not accommodate the request for space on Friday night.

Again, the Hilton staff had no problem with another late request for more meeting space, as long as it fell within the dates we had booked. They provided us with their best space, the Kings Gardens Rooms on the Mezzanine level, for the Saturday night reception, and with additional rooms on Sunday for the student breakfast, lunch and interviews.

Our SPE partners were less than thrilled when we began discussing this event at our monthly Planning Committee meetings, and at first left the room for the monthly reception prior to the dinner meeting. Eventually, however, their interest grew, and in the end it was another joint event, open to all students, geology and engineering.

Lee Avary took the lead at the local level, making all necessary arrangements to bring in the students and schedule their posters and interviews. The entire Planning Committee helped recruit companies who would be willing to attend to interview the students. Ms. Avary wrote and posted on our website guidelines for student posters and the schedule for their events, and recruited judges for the poster competition. Chuck Noll did a great job in soliciting financial

contributions from large companies, most of whom are out of the basin. Chuck received donations from six sponsors, more than enough to offset the cost of the student bags that were provided, the cash prizes that were given (\$500, \$250, \$100) for the best posters, and our expenses with the Hilton of \$4504 for breakfast, lunch and breaks. The total cost of the Student Job Quest was \$5,554.32.

Seventy four students paid the \$25 registration fee that allowed them to participate in the Student Job Quest and the entire meeting that followed, although the majority of these students did not arrive until the poster session was nearly over. However, the competition did attract 12 posters and their authors who wished to be interviewed.

We firmly believe that with an earlier start next year and in succeeding years, this can become a very large event that will attract more than 100 students to each Eastern Section meeting. Student attendance at this meeting probably was the largest ever for a section meeting.

Social Events

We had no problem offering our traditional Sunday night icebreaker or the Monday night Mini-Breaker that has become a tradition in recent years. Our SPE partners were more than willing to share both events with us, and became the driving force in organizing the Monday night dinner cruise.

We may have gone a little overboard on the cruise by offering not only the cruise and dinner, but the gambling, music and a magician as well. And, if you offer gambling, then it follows that you must allow the winners the opportunity to surrender their winning tickets for the chance to win the prize of the choice at the end of the cruise. However, we knew we had a large pool of money to work with, and we wanted everyone to have not just a good time, but a memorable time, so we made the extra commitments.

The Sunday night icebreaker cost at least \$19,970 for food and drink at the Hilton, and the Monday Mini-Breaker cost at least another \$7,867. The Monday cruise cost approximately \$19,636 for the food and entertainment, and the prizes that were given away on the cruise cost another \$15,200. Income from the tickets sold was \$13,150, so we subsidized this event to the tune of approximately \$21,700. We hope you enjoyed it.

These were not the only prizes that our engineer partners purchased to give away. Others were given out in the Exhibit area as well. Our total expenditures for these social events was approximately \$67,413.

Exhibitors

The bad news is above, a record amount of money spent for social events. The good news was that we attracted exhibitors and sponsors in record numbers, so we knew going in that we could be a little extravagant in other areas.

Our strategy at the beginning was not to ask our Exhibit Chairs to simply sell exhibit space. Instead, we gave them a solid goal that they were expected to meet: to sell at least 60 booths. Once this minimum goal was met, they were expected to sell more, up to the maximum space available, which we finally determined to be 70 booths.

In the end, Dan Billman and his SPE counterparts sold every available space, 70 booths in all, and tried their best to sell all of it at the higher commercial fee of \$750. At the very end, it was possible for non-commercial groups to get a booth at the lower rate of \$250. We offered two registrations with each commercial booth and one for each non-commercial booth. All extras were paid for by the exhibitors.

The only problem we encountered with this meeting involved the use of the vendor we hired to set up the pipe and drape and move exhibit material to and from the exhibit area. This vendor had their own contract for each exhibitor, and several objected to the language in it, even threatening to withdraw. In the end, the details of the contract were not a problem, but the insistence of the laborers to move material at their convenience rather than at ours was a big problem, a safety problem that could have led to a liability problem.

The issue was when could exhibitors tear down their exhibits and leave. We had stated that no one was to be in the Exhibit Hall while exhibits were being set up or taken down. This meant that if anyone started taking down an exhibit, we should have cleared the entire area of all registrants. However, we had scheduled drawings for the final prizes late on Tuesday and felt obligated to hold these as announced. But, we fully expected that all exhibitors would honor their agreement and keep everything up until the drawings were over and the hall was cleared.

This proved not to be the case. Several exhibitors began tearing down early, even as drawings were being held, and overly-aggressive vendor employees began pushing heavy hand carts through the crowd. There was no way to stop this exodus once it started, and no way to control those individuals pushing the carts through the crowd.

If an injury had occurred, our insurance policy might not have covered it because we had publically set the rules that no exhibitor was to leave while registrants were still in the hall. It was our responsibility to enforce this, and we failed.

Given the problem with finding an insurance company who will write a policy for a meeting of this type, it is in our best interests to be more forceful in the future to prevent an accident from occurring. Exhibitors must abide by the agreement they signed or accept full responsibility, in writing, for injuries that might occur if they insist on tearing down while the exhibit area is still open.

Sponsors

Again, we had a forceful strategy. We did not ask our Sponsor Chairs to go out and do the best they could. Instead, we told them that they were expected to solicit at least \$40,000 and should not decrease their fund-raising efforts until they had met this minimum goal. As expected, being company men who are used to meeting management goals, they accepted the

challenge and met this goal with ease, then raised another \$20,000.

We organized our levels of giving as Gold (more than \$5000), Silver (\$1500 to \$4999) and Bronze (\$100 to \$1499). In addition, we offered separate credit for Student Job Quest Sponsors. Cabot, Devon and Exxon were both meeting and Student Job Quest sponsors.

Twenty seven (27) sponsors supported this meeting, including 8 at the Gold level, 6 at the Silver level and 10 at the Bronze level. Three of these sponsors also sponsored the Student Job Quest, and 3 additional sponsors restricted their gifts to the Student Job Quest.

Deal Room

Dave Oldham did a fine job in recruiting 9 companies to show their deals at this meeting, for which they paid a fee of \$50 for each half day that they wished to rent booth space. Dave used the same pipe and drape vendor to set up four booths in a separate room so that four companies could be present at any one time. Because we used Stetson for each set up, both the Exhibit Hall and the Deal Room, the cost for setting up this room could not be separated from their total bill. However, it probably did not exceed the total income (\$450) received.

Deals were shown from Illinois, Ohio, Tennessee and New York. In general, participants were pleased with the Deal Room, but expressed a willingness in the future to trade privacy for additional traffic by having the Deal Room in a more visible area.

For a more complete report on the Deal Room, see the Appendix.

Website/Publicity/Marketing

Jeron Williamson and Chuck Boyer worked hand-in-hand to market this meeting through our meeting website, advertisements and mailing our *Conference Preview* booklet to all AAPG and SPE members in the eastern area of both groups. Jeron also worked with the three registration chairs to set up the capability for on-line registration and on-line payment.

A local printing company was hired to print the *Call for Abstracts*, *Conference Preview*, the *Final Program and Abstracts*, and all of the signage that we used around the Hilton to direct registrants to the various events and to give credit to our sponsors. A second company was hired to mail the *Call for Abstracts* and *Conference Preview* booklets. Printing and mailing costs for these two items was more than \$11,000, due to the large number (more than 6000) that were mailed.

We decided to offer both a printed copy of the program and abstracts and a version on CD. We also decided to add the complete paper for all SPE talks on the CD. John Harper worked with Chuck Boyer to prepare the CD while Chuck prepared the layout for the printed version. Our costs were approximately \$3300 for both.

Financial Summary

Marty Comini, who serves as Treasurer for both the PAPG and the Pittsburgh Chapter of SPE, agreed to serve in a similar capacity for this combined meeting. Initially, he set up separate meeting bank accounts for each group. However, as time went by, all business was conducted from one account.

The total income for the meeting was \$207,550.46, and total expenditures were \$182,918.30, yielding a profit of \$24,632.16. This profit will be split evenly between the two local hosts. PAPG will then split their share of \$12,316.08 with the Eastern Section of AAPG.

The agreement between ES-AAPG and PAPG calls for all profit or loss for pre- and post-meeting field trips and workshops to be to the benefit, or the responsibility of, PAPG. Expenses for the two AAPG workshops were \$1906.24 and expenses for the two AAPG field trips were \$2598.20, for a total of \$4504.44. These were offset by total income of \$4725 from the two field trips (\$3375) and the second workshop (\$1350). The total profit of \$220.56 is so small that it will not be retained by PAPG per the agreement. Instead, the meeting profit will be divided evenly between PAPG and the Eastern Section.

A summary of expenses by major categories follows:

Social (icebreakers, boat, prizes, etc)	67,413.01	
Registration	19,054.99	
Technical Sessions	53,708.05	
Field trips/Short Courses/Workshops	10,032.14	
Exhibit Hall	27,280.80	
Student Job Quest	5,554.32	
Total		182,918.30

Income by major categories was:

Registration fees	93,155.00	(less PayPal fees)
Sponsors		
Exhibitors		
Deal Room	450.00	
Total		207,550.46

APPENDIX

Agreement between SPE and PAPG

Agreement between ES-AAPG and PAPG

Hilton contract

Registration summary

Registration list

Exhibitor List

Sponsor List

Field trip summary

Deal room summary

Report on Judging for Eastern Section Presentation Awards

Exhibitor List

Company
AAPG Bookstore

Contact Person
Ron Hart

rhart@aapg.org

Allegheny Wireline Services, Inc.	Peter Valenti	304-269-2009
Appalachian PTTC	Doug Patchen	Doug.Patchen@mail.wvu.edu
Appalachian Well Services	Martin Neese	724-354-4400
Aqua-Clear Inc.	Tom Holloran	tom.aquaclear@verizon.net
Baker Atlas, Inc.	Dale Cole	dale.cole@bakerhughes.com
Baker Tank, Inc.	Erin Grimm	724-251-9101
Balon Corporation	Bonnie Lingafelter	412-289-0092
BJ Services	Roger Myers	412-494-3312
Case Services	Nadia Novab	Nadia@CaseServices.com
Detection Technologies	Cavan Carlton	434-386-9678
Directional Drilling Contractors	Jeff "Duff" Smith	231-943-3000
Eagle Research Corporation	John Booth	johnb@eagleresearchcorp.com
Echometer Company	Dieter Becker	940-723-7507
Environmental Services Labs, Inc	Beth Gregg	724-463-8378
eProduction Solutions	Ann Jerdan	michael.wright@ep-solutions.com
eSeis	Gordon Van Sweringen	imoriaty@e-seis.com
Evans Geophysical	Annette Evans	annette@evansgeo.com
Exploration Development, Inc.	Pat Bygott	303-840-7021
GeoData Corporation	Larry Rumerfield	
Geophysical Applications	David Schieck	Dschieck@compuserve.com
GeoPlus Corporation	Bob Meyer	bmeyer@geoplus.com
GeoSearch Logging Company	Joe Struckel	joestructel@geosearchlogging.com
Great Lakes Geophysical	Garry Hurst	231-267-9775
Halliburton Services	Jerry Bucco	724-479-4032
IHS Energy	Jenny Bruce	jenny.bruce@IHSenergy.com
Illinois Geologic Survey/PTTC	David Morse	morse@isgs.uiuc.edu
Integrity Geophysical	Jerry Blaxton	integritygeo@aol.com
Javins Corp.	Brooks Javins	
Jet Star, Inc.	John Cramer	216-262-8225
Key Energy	Robert Carloni	304-342-9700
Landmark/GeoGraphix	Can Carson	303-675-2416
Logic Plunger Lift Systems	Joel Jenkins	330-325-1951
Lufkin Automation	Andy Cordova	281-988-4405
Maverick Tube	Ellen Frederking	800-325-1777
Merrick Systems	Dale Morgan	713-355-6800
Meyer & Associates	Henry Jacot	724-244-1440
Michigan Basin Core Research	William Harrison	269-387-8633
Michigan Tech Subsurface Lab	Linda Harrison	linda.harrison@wmich.edu
MIDCARB Group/KGS	Tim Carr	tcarr@kgs.ku.edu
Multi Products	Bud Doty	
NEMSCO	Mitch Ring	304-624-7324
Neuralog	Megan Best	alanc@neuralog.com
Northeast Energy Consulting, Inc.	Mike Zentz	
Northeastern Science Foundation	Gerald Friedman	518-273-3247
Northeast Equipment Company/ Cooper Cameron Valves	Frank Northrup	800-922-9247

NYIOGA/NYSERDA	Brad Gill	info@iogany.org
NY State Museum	Justin Deming	rnyahay@mail.nysed.gov
Ohio Geological Society	Peter MacKenzie	
Omni Laboratories	Jennifer Benefield	jbenefield@omnilabs.com
Ontario Salt, Gas and Oil Library	Steve Fletcher	s.fletcher@ontpet.com
Pennsylvania Geologic Survey	Cheryl Cozart	ccoart@state.pa.us
Schlumberger	Scott Glenn	304-552-4446
Schlumberger Information Solutions	Jewell Bass	jbass@houston.oilfield.slb.com
Segway of Texas	David Swartz	713-986-2500
SPE Group Benefits Program	Julianne Davis	805-566-1298, x1298
Stripper Well Consortium	Joel Morrison	swc@ems.psu.edu
Team Downhole Services	Randy Kirchberg	304-473-1501
TerraQuest Ltd	Allan Spector	asal@globalserve.net
Universal Well Services	John Stansfield	jfontaine@univwell.com
US DOE- NETL	Jim Ammer	
Westerman Companies	Damian Schmelzer	740-569-4143
Whitestar	Steve Pickett	303-781-5182
Wild Well Control	Patti Green	281-353-5481

Sponsor List

GOLD

BJ Services Company, Inc
Dominion Exploration and Production, Inc.
EOG Resources, Inc.
Falcon Drilling
Great Lakes Energy Partners, LLC
Superior Well Services, LTD
SW Jack Drilling
Texas Keystone, Inc.
Universal Well Services

Silver

Cabot Oil & Gas Corp.
Devon Energy
Equitable Production Company
McJunkin Appalachian Supply Company
Schlumberger
U.S. Department of Energy

Bronze

AAPG
AAPG Mentoring Committee
ABARTA Oil & Gas Company, Inc
Allegheny Wireline Services, Inc.
Billman Geologic Consultants, Inc.
Exxon
Huntley & Huntley, Inc.
Key Energy Services
Kerr McGee
Miller Supply of PA, Inc.
Multi Products Company, Inc.
Northrup Equipment Company
Penneco Oil Company, Inc.
Pennsylvania General Energy
USA Compression

Final Report on the Field Trips

Both field trips were successful in their own way. Both trips had a net monetary gain, very enthusiastic attendees, and good feedback.

Field trip organizer and leader Kathy Flaherty summarized the Sunday field trip, *Hills, Dales & Oil Trails* oil history trip as small but successful. She is certain that the trip lost some potential participants due to the conflict with the opening ceremonies and addresses that also took place on Sunday afternoon. Kathy suggests this be a consideration in planning for future events.

I organized the Wednesday field trip, *Trenton and Black River Carbonates of the Union Furnace Area in Blair and Huntingdon Counties, Pennsylvania*, which filled to capacity before the pre-registration deadline. Because of the topic, I believe I could have doubled that number easily if I had thought we could fit 60 or 70 people on the trip. Also, I told the PAPG Board that we would be willing to rerun the trip for the local geological community, and that cut down on the number of local geologists who went on the trip. We had attendees from Alberta, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, as well as from Pennsylvania – a VERY good cross section of the Eastern Section of AAPG.

Attached are the field trip reports from the organizers/trip leaders of the two field trips, and a final financial statement.

Respectfully submitted,



John A. Harper
Field Trip Chairman
9/25/2003

Hills, Dales & Oil Trails

Trip leaders: Kathy J. Flaherty and Thomas Flaherty III

This field excursion began at 7:30 AM on Sunday, September 7, 2003 in front of the convention hotel. The trip included two films shown on the bus on the way to the first stop. *Born in Freedom*, starring Vincent Price as Colonel Drake, was enjoyed by all (5 participants later purchased the film at the Drake Well Museum gift shop), as was the film about Pithole and other oil towns in the immediate area.

Stops

The first stop featured the historic McClintock Oil Well in Rouseville, Venango County (drilled in 1861 and still producing – considered the oldest continuously producing oil well in the world) and lectures by Barbara Zolli, Director of the Drake Well Museum, and Augie Holtz, the well tender who operated the well when it was owned by Quaker State Oil Refining Corp. While we were there, the field personnel were able to start the Reid engine and participants could see the engine and central powers functioning.

The second stop was the Drake Well Museum where participants had a tour of the museum and grounds. A catered lunch was served in the pavilion on the grounds, a group photo was taken in front of the replica, and participants were given an opportunity to peruse the Museum Shop. Copies of the group photo were later mailed to the participants. On the bus on the way to Pithole, participants saw one last film about the growth of Pithole.

Upon arrival at Pithole, the third stop, participants were greeted by the honorable Mayor Fred Sliter. He welcomed them to the city and gave an introductory talk in the auditorium. Outside, he led participants on a walking tour of the streets and told them about the buildings and people who inhabited Pithole during the 500-day existence. There was time for participants to wander the museum displays and small gift shop.

The field trip participants boarded the bus for the last time at 3:30 PM and arrived in Pittsburgh at the Hilton Hotel at 5:30 PM in time to join the ice breaker already in progress.

General Comments

The registration for this field trip fluctuated a bit but settled at 16 participants. It was up to 18 at one point, but one participant could not obtain a visa from his African government, and one other had to cancel early. There was one late cancellation past the refund date, and that gave someone else an opportunity to join our trip who otherwise would not have been able to attend. On the morning of the trip we were short several folks. We attempted to contact them by phone. Nonetheless, we eventually had 12 enthusiastic participants.

When I planned the trip, our budget per person was estimated at \$75 including guidebook printing costs, bus, catered lunch, and other minor factors for 15 participants. ABARTA Oil & Gas Company unexpectedly paid for the printing of the guidebooks and Falcon Drilling donated \$500 for tote bags and the running of the Reid Engine at the

McClintock Oil Well. A complete financial breakdown is attached. The net financial result from the trip was a small, but welcome, profit.

None of the participants except for the field trip leaders had ever been to any of the stops. All seemed to enjoy the trip, and several mentioned that they would like to go back with family members. One participant, a professor, told me that for years he and other faculty members talked about including such a trip in the curriculum for the petroleum geology and engineering students, but they had never been to the area, and they had no idea how to go about planning the venture. He emailed me after the trip to say that he had “a super time” and that they are planning such a trip for students.

**Submitted by: Kathy J. Flaherty, Trip Organizer and Leader
ABARTA Oil and Gas Co.
1000 Gamma Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15238**

**Trenton and Black River Carbonates of the Union Furnace Area
in Blair and Huntingdon Counties, Pennsylvania**

**Trip leaders: Christopher D. Laughrey, Jaime Kostelnik,
David P. Gold, Arnold G. Doden, and John A. Harper**

The Trenton Black River field trip started at 6:35 AM on Wednesday, September 10, 2003 at the Pittsburgh Hilton and Towers in downtown Pittsburgh. The bus trip to the field area lasted between 2.5 and 3 hours, with commentary on local geology and history along the route by John Harper.

Stops

The first stop was a visit to the Union Furnace quarries of the New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co. where trip leaders Gold and Doden showed participants some spectacular geology from both above the highwall and within the quarry itself. Besides views of the Trenton and Black River carbonates, this stop illustrated the local geologic structure (the axis of the Scotch Valley syncline trends right through the quarry) and panoramic views of the Ridge and Valley physiographic province. Gold and Doden were also able to expound on the geologic history of the Tyrone-Mt. Union lineament, a major basement wrench fault that propagates to the surface and is still seismically active.

The second stop was a catered lunch at historic Arch Spring where participants had a tour of this natural wonder and a lecture by trip leader Laughrey on the cave system that spawned it. Lunch was served on picnic grounds behind an early 19th century building (constructed of local Ordovician limestone blocks) that once was a millhouse. The picnic grounds are located where the former mill race ran. It was a marvelously sylvan setting with plenty of food, plenty of shade, and a beautiful babbling brook nearby.

The third stop was the *pièce de résistance* of the trip, a 600+ meter roadcut through the entire Black River section and most of the Trenton section along PA 453 near the Union Furnace quarry. Participants were able to get up close and personal with every bed, fault, fossil, and sedimentary structure. It was very eye-opening for the participants to see the section in outcrop so close to the major producing areas of southern New York and northern Pennsylvania. One participant even found saddle dolomite in some of the crystallized zones associated with faulting. Trip leaders Laughrey, Kostelnik, and Gold pointed out details of the rocks that left some participants breathless.

The field trip returned to the Pittsburgh Hilton and Towers a few minutes before 6:30 PM. The trip lasted about 10 minutes short of 12 hours, but the participants were abuzz with excitement and profusely thanked the trip leaders for a great trip.

General Comments

Registration for this field trip was fast-paced. The trip quickly filled up before the original pre-registration deadline. There were numerous people who called or stopped by at the convention wanting to know if they could still get a seat. We had 30 people registered for the trip, but one did not show up on Wednesday morning and was unfortunately left behind without any explanation as to why he didn't arrive. In addition,

we had five field trip leaders and four road guards who attended the field trip at no expense to themselves.

When planning the trip, I determined a cost for the bus and estimated the cost of box lunches, guidebook printing, refreshments, etc. I thought we could manage with \$75 per person. In the long run, I opted for a catered lunch, rather than box lunches, at a beautiful site not far from the field stops, which had the added benefit of demonstrating the karst processes at work in central Pennsylvania. The catered lunch cost more than I had anticipated (although it was almost \$7 per person less expensive than box lunches provided by the hotel would have been!). However, the Pennsylvania Geological Survey paid for printing of the guidebooks and I personally donated the bus driver's gratuity, so there was a substantial profit. A complete financial breakdown follows.

The participants were very enthusiastic about this trip. Everyone seemed to find something of immense interest, and I think many of the participants were glad to get out in the field rather than being stuck in an office. Many vowed to return on their own to spend more time with the fascinating exposure of the PA 453 roadcut. This stop will be especially important to the upcoming multi-state Trenton/Black River project.

**Submitted by: John A. Harper, Trip Organizer
 Pennsylvania Geological Survey
 400 Waterfront Drive
 Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 19, 2003
TO: Doug Patchen
FROM: Dave Oldham
SUBJECT: AAPG-SPE-2003 DEAL ROOM

The Deal Room was located in the King's Terrace Room of the Hilton. Five companies participated, showing a total of nine exploratory, development, or gas storage prospects in Illinois, Ohio, Tennessee, and New York. Stetson set up four two-walled booths in the center of the room. Tackboard walls allowed for participants to hang maps and cross sections. Participants were also provided a small table and four chairs in each booth. Four booths and four possible time slots (Mon AM, Mon PM, Tue AM, Tue PM) per booth, allowed for a total of 16 available half-day slots. Of these, 9 time slots were filled, at a fee of \$50 per slot, for total direct revenue of \$450. At least six attendees, who attended the meeting for the sole purpose of showing deals, contributed additional indirect revenue through registration fees.

Following the meeting, I solicited input from participants on how the deal room format could be improved. Most suggestions centered on the room's location, which was somewhat removed from the main areas of activity. Others mentioned that additional signage would have been helpful, although we seemed to have plenty of signs, and handouts. In addition, we made announcements reminding attendees of the deal room at the beginning of each technical session.

As a whole, I believe that most participants were pleased with the turnout to the deal room. Most would have preferred to have been in a higher-visibility area, such as where the posters were located, trading off privacy for traffic. One conflict that may have reduced participation, by both participants and visitors, was APPEX, which was held in Houston later in the same week. At least six prospects from the eastern US were marketed at that meeting.

I want to thank Mary Ann Gross for her input and help with the deal room during the meeting. Best of luck to Amy Burke, deal room chair for next year's meeting in Columbus.

Report of Judging for Eastern Section AAPG meeting, September 6-10, 2003, Pittsburgh, PA

A. I. LEVORSEN MEMORIAL BEST PAPER AWARD:

Langhorne B. "Taury" Smith, Trenton Black River Hydrothermal Dolomite Reservoirs of New York: An Integrated Structural-Stratigraphic-Diagenetic Play

MARGARET HAWN MIRABILE MEMORIAL BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARD:

Jonathan C. Evenick, Potential Ordovician Hydrocarbon Plays in the Cumberland Plateau of Tennessee and Southern Kentucky: Finding a Needle in a Haystack?

VINCENT E. NELSON MEMORIAL BEST POSTER AWARD:

Hannes E. Leetaru, Characterization of the Mt. Somon Sandstone Gas Storage Reservoirs at Herscher and Herscher Northwest Fields, Kankakee County, Illinois

RALPH L. MILLER MEMORIAL BEST ENERGY MINERALS DIVISION PAPER AWARD (EASTERN SECTION):

Craig A. Eckert, Geology and Production Characteristics of Nora CBM Field, Dickenson, Russell, Wise and Buchanan Counties, Virginia

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCES BEST PAPER AWARD (EASTERN SECTION):

John B. Nelson, Site Characterization of Historical Cemeteries Using Electrical Resistivity Measurement

ENERGY MINERALS DIVISION BEST POSTER AWARD (EASTERN SECTION):
not awarded

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCES BEST POSTER AWARD (EASTERN SECTION):

not awarded

