



Geological Society of Nevada Southern Nevada Chapter Newsletter

March 2005

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Geology & Mineralogy of Searles Lake, San Bernardino County, California

DATE: Thursday, March 31, 2005
SPEAKER: Bruce Hurley (DOE)
LOCATION: Room 102 Lilly Fong Geoscience Bldg.
TIME: 6:00 p.m. Social *Half-Hour*
6:30 p.m. Presentation

Geological Society of Nevada, Southern Nevada Chapter

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 4010, Las Vegas, NV 89154-4010
<http://geoscience.unlv.edu/GSN/gsnsc.htm>

Happy Spring! We would like to thank Jon Price for his Informative talk on the effect of geology on the rise of western civilization at our January meeting. We had another great turnout. The southwestern section of AEG and GSN held a student presentation night at McCormick & Schmicks in February. Three UNLV Geology students presented their graduate and undergraduate research: Melissa Hicks, Stephanie Mrozek, and Shelley Zaragoza. Our chapter is planning on having another student presentation night, this one in the Geoscience department, next December.

We have a few field trips planned for the upcoming months. One trip to the Alamo Impact Breccia near Alamo, NV and one to Yucca Mountain. We hope that everyone will be able to attend. UNLV student, and chapter member, Robert Belliveau is sponsoring our March meeting so we will have the usual sandwiches, pizza, and other refreshments. Please thank Robert when you see him *thanks Robert*. Without sponsorship of meeting we will have to reduce the amount of food at meetings to just a few snacks and sodas - so let's all work on getting our chapter meetings sponsored! ~ Robyn

ELECTIONS:

During our March meeting we will have our “new” annual officer elections. All chapter members will be able to vote on who the chapter officers will be for the year starting summer 2005 and ending in summer 2006. Based on interest in becoming an officer, each candidate will be running unopposed. Listed below are the candidates:

President: Robyn Howley
Vice President: Joe Kula
Treasurer: R. Paul Bowen
Secretary: Melissa Hicks

ALAMO FIELD TRIP:

Max Blanchard has organized a trip to visit the Alamo Breccia that formed during the Late Devonian in response to a meteorite impact on the carbonate shelf. Professor John E. Warne of the Department of Geology & Geological Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines has agreed to lead the field trip while he is in the area. The field trip will run March 19 and 20 and includes stop in the Arrow Canyon Range, Delamar Mtns, Hancock Summit (Pahrangat Range), Hiko Range & Tempiute Mtn. (Timpahute Range). Participants need to provide their own transportation. Please **RSVP to Maxwell Blanchard by Wednesday March 16**, e-mail: desertsage2@earthlink.net; tel: 702-363-9172 (home) or 702-480-5662 (cell).

YUCCA MOUNTAIN FIELD TRIP:

Chet Nichols is organizing a field trip to Yucca Mountain for April 27, 2005. Transportation to and from Yucca Mountain will be provided. More information will be available at the March meeting and when the details are finalized I will send out an email announcement.

MEMBERSHIP:

If you would like to become a member of our chapter you can download the form and mail it to the GSN main chapter. Regular membership is \$30 and student membership is \$5 (chapter fee only). Remember that the entire southern Nevada chapter fee goes towards our chapter and helps us have food and refreshments at every meeting.

ADS & SPONSORS:

GSN is a non-profit organization and our chapter is supported by chapter fees, advertisements, and sponsors. If your business would like to sponsor social hour at one of our southern Nevada chapter meetings or would like to place a paid advertisement in this newsletter and on our website please contact Jim O'Donnell at 702.293.5664 or jim_odonnell@cox.net. Please see our current advertisements at the end of this newsletter and support our sponsors.

We would like to extend our appreciation to UNLV Geology Student *Robert Belliveau* for sponsoring our March meeting. Please think of Robert when you are enjoying your meal during the March meeting!

PARKING:

For information on parking at UNLV and obtaining a permit please visit the UNLV parking services website at <http://www.unlv.edu/studentlife/parking/>.

This site also includes maps of the campus and directions. If you would like to obtain a daily parking pass but are not able to purchase the permit before they close at 5 pm Amy can purchase the pass for you as long as she knows that you need it the day before. Contact her for more information. We want to make sure that everyone has a place to park for our meetings.

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER
Geology & Mineralogy of Searles Lake, San Bernardino County, California
Bruce Hurley

The evaporite deposits of Searles Lake developed as a product of Pleistocene-to-Recent deposition of fine sediments in a deep subsiding basin at the distal end of the Owens River system. As a result of alternating wet and dry climatic cycles, evaporation and re-hydration has led to the development of distinctive suite of evaporite minerals. These minerals occur from direct precipitation from lake water and as precipitates in subsurface mud and "salt cake" strata. Mineral species are zoned vertically in the lake bed stratigraphy, as a result of both cyclic evaporative processes and leaching associated with leakage through permeable strata in the deep subsurface. The deposits at Searles Lake have been mined since 1873 for a variety of mineral products and uses.

Early each October, Searles Lake is also the site of perhaps the world's largest mineralogy field excursions. These include three trips which provide access to collect specimens from three different stratigraphic levels of the lake. The trips provide participants the opportunity to collect world-class crystal specimens of both common to very rare evaporate mineral types.

Speaker's Background & Education

Bruce Hurley is the Program Manager for Environmental Monitoring at the National Nuclear Security Administration, Nevada Site Office. Dr. Hurley holds degrees in geology from North Carolina State (B.S.), North Carolina (M.S.), and Washington State (Ph.D.), and has worked in scientific projects for more than thirty years. Previous programs in which he has participated include work in geologic mapping, mineral exploration, university teaching, geologic/hydrologic site characterization, and radiological emergency response training and deployment. A Nevada resident for twenty-four years, his background includes eighteen years with the federal government and nine years with government contractors. His wife, Janice, is a nursing educator at Sunrise Hospital in Las Vegas. His daughter Erin is a 2004 graduate of UNR and works in media advertising in Atlanta, while his daughter Kyle attends Adams State College in Alamosa, Colorado, on a soccer scholarship.

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