

**AAPG Astrogeology Committee
Annual Business Meeting**
April 21, 2008, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. (CDT)
San Antonio, TX
Location: Grand Hyatt Hotel • Room: Travis A/B

Minutes

**Prepared by William A. Ambrose, Harrison H. Schmitt,
Brian Pitts, and Charles Sternbach**

PRESENT (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER, WITH E-MAIL ADDRESS):

Bill Ambrose (william.ambrose@beg.utexas.edu) –
Astrogeology Committee Co-Chair
Ted Beaumont (tedbeaumont@gmail.com) – AAPG EC
Liaison
Karen Blake (keb933@gmail.com) – Representative
from AAPG Pacific Section
Dave Campbell (earthhawk1@sbcglobal.net) –
Astrogeology Committee
Jan Cannon (craterman1@aol.com) – Astrogeology
Committee
Don Clarke (labasindon@gmail.com) – Astrogeology
Committee Manager
Cynthia Dinwiddie (cdinwiddie@swri.org) – DEG
Technical Chair, 2008 Annual AAPG Convention
Ron Hart (rhart@aapg.org) – AAPG Staff Liaison
Brad Jolliff (blj@levee.wustl.edu) – Washington
University in St. Louis; Editor of New Views of the
Moon

Larry Knauer (larryknauer@chevron.com) –
Representing AAPG Committee Oversight
Committee Liaison
Dante Lauretta (lauretta@lpl.arizona.edu) – University
of Arizona, Lunar and Planetary Laboratory
Seiichi Nagihara (seiichi.nagihara@ttu.edu) – Texas
Tech University, Associate Professor of Geosciences
Doug Peters (petersdc@petersgeo.com) – Astrogeology
Committee Vice Chair for 2009 Annual AAPG
Meeting, Denver
Brian Pitts (bpitts@bak.rr.com) – Astrogeology
Committee Co-Vice Chair
Jack Schmitt (hhschmitt@earthlink.net) – Astrogeology
Co-Chair
Harold Syms (harold.syms@mms.gov) – Minerals
Management Service
Charles Sternbach (carbodude@pdq.net) – Astrogeology
Committee Co-Vice Chair

Jack Schmitt called the meeting to order at 9:35 and the minutes from the 2007 annual meeting of the Astrogeology Committee (April 3, 2007, Long Beach, CA), were approved by those present.

Jack Schmitt passed brochures/application forms for the current astronaut selection to attendees at the beginning of the meeting. Brian Pitts asked if there should be an age limit on individuals targeted for recruitment, and Jack said that it would be important for potential candidates to be at an early stage of their own careers (age: early to mid-30s with 5 to 10 years of exploration experience).

Charles Sternbach mentioned that he is on the AAPG 100th Anniversary Committee, which is planning special activities for the year 2017. Among the things that the 100th Anniversary Committee plans to celebrate are honoring special people, citing the landmark literature, and field trips (?). Charles suggested we appoint a liaison between the Astrogeology and 100th Anniversary Committees. Jack Schmitt also suggested we should have another field trip to the NASA Space Center.

Future Meetings

2008 Annual GSA in Houston (October 5-9)

Bill Ambrose summarized the current status of the oral session “Current Issues in Lunar Stratigraphy” at the 2008 Annual GSA session in Houston during October 5-9. The session is co-sponsored by the Astrogeology Committee and David Williams (Arizona State University) and Bill Ambrose are the co-chairs. Two speakers (Noah Petro and Scott Mest) have accepted invitations to speak. Jack Schmitt was also invited to speak. Bill mentioned that he has sent invitations to approximately 2 dozen other speakers and will be following up with these invitations.

2008 International AAPG Convention in Capetown (October 26-29)

Bill Ambrose confirmed that 2 oral sessions “Snowball Earth and planetary climate change through time” (Joseph Kirschvink and Bill Ambrose co-chairs) and “Sub-continental scale layered intrusives and lunar mare structures” (Allan Wilson and Jack Schmitt, co-chairs) are scheduled back-to-back for a combined half-day session on Monday, October 27 at Cape Town. Bill also mentioned that AAPG is not willing to accept the liability risk for the field trip to the Bushveld Complex also sponsored by the Astrogeology Committee. Bill spoke to Cape Town General Chair Jeff Aldrich who said that AAPG would agree to still list the field trip on the AAPG website, together with a link to Allan Wilson, who is willing to personally arrange a field trip to the Bushveld Complex with all who are interested. Jack noted that we should arrange a link to Allan Wilson on the Astrogeology website as well.

2009 Annual AAPG Convention in Denver (June 7-10)

Doug Peters, the Astrogeology Vice Chair for the meeting in Denver, mentioned that the Astrogeology Committee has proposed 3 technical sessions, including:

- “Energy Minerals in the Solar System: Resources for the 21st Century” (Dante Lauretta and Bill Ambrose, Co-Chairs) – EMD has agreed to co-sponsor this session. Dante is replacing Cynthia Dinwiddie as Co-Chair.
- “The Impact of Impacts” (Jan Cannon and Doug Peters Co-Chairs);
- “Lunar Field Exploration Equipment and Sample Documentation” (Mark Helper and Art Snoke, co-chairs).

Doug described three proposed field trips, including:

- “Lunar and Asteroid Resources”, with possible stops at the Colorado School of Mines and Lockheed-Martin;
- “Remote Sensing, Climate, and Space Missions”, with potential stops in Boulder and the north Denver Metro Area: Univ. of Colorado mission center and staff, Ball Aerospace, National Center for Atmosphere and Climate, and Digital Globe or GeoEye;
- “Lunar Field Exploration Equipment and Sample Documentation”, Art Snoke and Mark Helper, leaders.

Cynthia Dinwiddie suggested that three field trips were too ambitious for the program, and after some discussion, it was agreed that the Astrogeology Committee should focus on two of the field trips (“Remote Sensing, Climate, and Space Missions” and “Lunar Field Exploration Equipment and Sample Documentation”). Jack suggested that participants in the FEAT-related (Field Exploration Analysis Team) field trip might be interested in the concept of doing field work with a robotic field assistant, which would test the concept of whether such a field assistant would be truly helpful or just reduce efficiency. Jack also mentioned that we should target GSA planetary scientists, involved somebody from the Colorado School of Mines as a field trip co-chair, or get astronauts involved in the FEAT field trip. For example, Dean Eppler has contacts at the NASA Astronaut Office and could facilitate their involvement.

2010 Annual AAPG Convention in New Orleans

A Vice Chair for the Astrogeology Committee will be needed for the 2010 Annual AAPG Convention in New Orleans. Bill Ambrose mentioned that he will call Art Johnson, the EMD Vice Chair for the New Orleans convention, to see if a Vice Chair can be arranged.

2010 International AAPG Convention in Rio de Janeiro

Ron Hart confirmed that the 2010 International AAPG Convention will be held in Rio de Janeiro. Jack Schmitt mentioned that there could be a possible field trip to Argentina to visit impact crater fields. Marcio Mello was mentioned as a possible contact for help in arranging activities sponsored by the Astrogeology Committee. Bill Ambrose said that he would contact Marcio.

Other Meetings

Jack Schmitt mentioned that AIME or SME should be approached as a co-sponsor for future sessions; Doug Peters said that he would contact them.

Brad Jolliff and Dante Lauretta pointed out that GSA has numerous sectional meetings in which the Astrogeology Committee could be involved.

Brad Jolliff, Jack Schmitt, and Dante Lauretta also mentioned that LPI is sponsoring several meetings this year, including one during October 25-28 to coincide with the launch of the LRO mission. This meeting is focused on activities in LEAG (Lunar Exploration Analysis Group), chaired by Clive Neal.

There was some follow-up discussion of lunar geophysical networks, robotic geophysical probes, and the need to have probe standards for future lunar characterization projects. Jack Schmitt mentioned NASA Ames and Barbara Cohen, who will be involved in defining suites of instruments used to set up geophysical network nodes.

Website

Bill Ambrose acknowledged the great support provided by Janet Brister and her assistant in constructing and maintaining the Astrogeology Committee website, which can be accessed by either navigating via the AAPG website, or directly at:

<http://www.aapg.org/committees/astrogeology/index.cfm>.

Bill invited everybody to send material to post on the website, including biographical sketches, personal photograph, and contact information. Bill also mentioned that committee members should also send material for the OUTREACH section, including PowerPoint slides (especially suitable for K-12), as well as relevant papers. Cynthia Dinwiddie reminded everybody that we need to list proposed and scheduled Astrogeology-sponsored sessions, as well as links and upcoming meetings of other professional organizations on the website. In particular, links to NASA public outreach sites were recommended for inclusion in the website.

Special Publication

Bill Ambrose reviewed the goals and outline of the proposed special publication

“Energy Minerals in the Solar System: Resources for Human Colonization and Earth’s Future in Space”. He mentioned that Doug Peters has received favorable feedback from many EMD officers, beginning with promoting a session at the 2009 AAPG Convention in Denver. Jack Schmitt and others recommended some slight changes to the title, which is now listed as “Energy Resources for Human Settlement in the Solar System and Earth’s Future in Space”.

Several helpful suggestions were made by those present, including Dante Lauretta, Cynthia Dinwiddie, Brad Jolliff, Brian Pitts, and Jack Schmitt:

- We should get firm commitments from authors (letters of intent) on a 2-year timetable for publication;
- The international community should also be involved, especially India, China, Japan, and Europe;
- We should encourage younger authors to contribute, as for example a section from the newly organized Odyssey Moon and other, related teams:
- We should look at comparable publications and see what is being done in terms of scope, and who the authors are.

Jack and Bill asked everybody to review the introductory text and outline and suggest changes and edits, as well as make suggestions for authors.

Astrogeology Committee Leadership for 2008-2009

Jack Schmitt mentioned that his term as Co-Chair will end on June 30; he nominated Bill Ambrose as continuing as Co-Chair for the new term (2008-2009). Charles Sternbach suggested we recruit Jim Reilly as the other Co-Chair for 2008-2009, citing Jim as both a geologist and member of AAPG. Jack concurred and said that he will ask Jim if he can serve. Bill acknowledged that Brian Pitts and Charles Sternbach are currently serving as Co-Vice Chairs; Brian mentioned that both his and Charles' terms as Co-Vice Chair continue for another year and Doug Peters suggested that terms for Co-Vice Chairs overlap rather than expire at the same time.

Adjournment

Jack Schmitt asked if there was any old and new business to discuss; there being none, he adjourned the meeting at 11:30. A couple of photographs were taken of the Committee, members of the AAPG Pacific Section, and others who were present at the meeting.