

# ***SIPES: Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists***



## ***HOUSTON CHAPTER Newsletter***

**April 2007**

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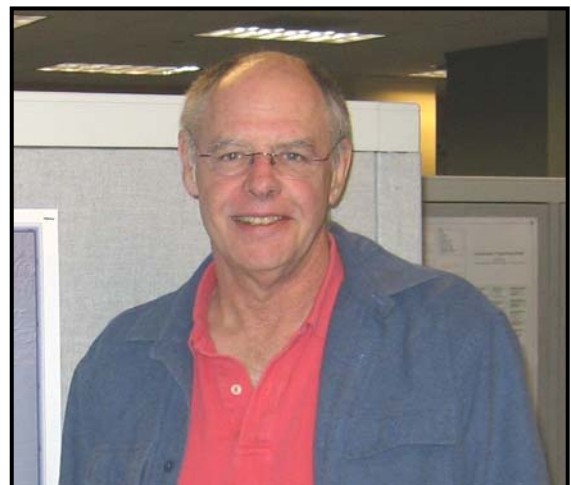
### **April Luncheon Meeting: “Exploration Trends in the Texas - Louisiana Gulf Coast: a 50,000 Foot View”**

Presented by Mark Nibbelink

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**Date:** Thursday, April 19, 2007  
**Time:** Social Period 11:15 am  
Lunch 11:45 am  
**Location:** Petroleum Club  
800 Bell  
Houston, TX 77002

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Mark Nibbelink

#### ***April Hospitality Sponsor***

SIPES Houston Chapter wishes to thank  
**Pathfinder Energy Services** for the  
complimentary wine served during the social  
period.

#### **Abstract**

In an era of high wellhead prices it's no wonder that the development of in-field acreage is the quickest way to cash flow. It's also a good incentive for taking on more E&P risk. But how aggressively is our industry looking for new reserves? And how well is our community of Gulf Coast explorationists defining and meeting the challenge of adding meaningful new reserves?

*(Cont'd next page)*

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Members and Affiliates who register by **12:00 Noon, Tuesday April 17, 2007** pay only \$30. Guests, non-members, late registrations, or at-the-door pay \$35. **No-shows will be billed.** Call, fax, or e-mail your reservation to Mrs. B.K. Buongiorno at the SIPES address above. You can sign up for SIPES Meetings online at [www.sipes-houston.org](http://www.sipes-houston.org), but payment is still required by regular mail or at the door.

We'll take a look at drilling and leasing trends and look at both the character and pace of new reserve additions, with an emphasis on defining the kinds of companies that are providing leadership.

### Professional Biography

Born into an Army family in 1949, Mark spent the first 18 years of his life traveling the world as his dad served in the military. Upon graduation from high school in Hawaii in 1967, Mark attended Dartmouth where he studied igneous and metamorphic petrology. Gulf Oil hired Mark in 1972 while still in graduate school, working the Mississippi Interior Salt Basin for Gulf in Jackson MS. Additional assignments included the mapping of a large offshore 2D data set over the Baltimore Canyon/Eastern Shelf area of the US OCS. After Gulf he joined ERA North America, a small consulting group based in Connecticut that advised and positioned a joint venture of 4 companies bidding on Eastern OCS acreage. After successfully joining a major oil company's bid group at the Federal OCS sale, Mark became a geological dive observer on dives #785 and # 781 aboard the R.V. Alvin. These dives included making the first descents to -5000' and -6000' into the submarine canyons off Georges Bank describing the stratigraphy of the outer continental shelf. Mark returned to the oil industry in 1980 and began seismic interpretation and well-site work in the South Central Texas Austin Chalk play. In 1986, Mark became an independent geologist pursuing the Jurassic in the under-explored areas of East Texas. In 1999, Mark co-founded DrillingInfo.com and has been its President since its inception.

DrillingInfo will hold a user meeting immediately following the luncheon for interested attendees. **This user meeting is open to luncheon attendees only.** No pre-registration is required.

### 2006 SIPES-Houston Chapter Scholarship Winners

The SIPES Houston Chapter is proud to announce that it awarded \$500 scholarships to four Ph.D. candidates in the University of Houston Department of Geosciences as part of the Chapter's 2006 giving program.

The recipients are Veronica Sanchez, Weiguo Li, Haitao Ren and Hongmei Cao. We wish them continued success in their research.

### SIPES-Houston Members Honored by AAPG



John Amoruso

Houston Chapter members Dan Smith and John Amoruso both received awards at this year's AAPG Annual Meeting in Long Beach. Dan received the **Honorary Member Award** and John received the inaugural **Michel T. Halbouty Outstanding Leadership Award**.



Dan Smith

### **Volunteers Needed**

**The Board of Directors is seeking volunteers to form a committee to encourage young earth scientists.**

**For more details or if you are interested in joining this effort, please contact Pat Shannon at (713) 785-2599.**

### 2007 SIPES Houston

#### Chapter Officers

<i>Chairman</i>	Patrick J. Shannon	713-785-2599
<i>Chairman-Elect</i>	James M. Norris	713-376-9361
<i>Secretary</i>	Michael L. Jones	713-654-0080
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mark Gregg	713-266-3820
<i>Past Chairman</i>	Larry J. Rairden	832-654-6580

#### Committee Chairmen

<i>Web Site</i>	Phil Martin	281-664-7000
<i>Technical Program</i>	Mark E. O'Koren	281-363-4474
<i>Continuing Education</i>	Stephen P. Hartzell	713-651-9100
<i>Hospitality</i>	Duncan D. DuBroff	713-542-2198
<i>Membership</i>	James M. Grubb	713-591-1155
<i>Deal Buyers List</i>	Amparo Kennedy	281-681-2103
<i>Public Relations</i>	John M. Jurasin	832-242-6000
<i>Political Affairs</i>	Dan L. Smith	713-759-6095 x305

#### SIPES National Directors

Paul Britt	281-494-3155
Ray Blackhall	281-370-7807

#### SIPES Office Manager

B.K. Buongiorno	713-651-1639
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# March Luncheon Meeting Recap

Our third luncheon of 2007 was held on March 15 in the Discovery room of the Petroleum Club. Art Berman was the guest speaker and his topic was titled “*New Ideas and Their Diffusion: A Model for Exploration & Production Companies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*” with application to the Barnett Shale Play. 62 members and guests attended the luncheon. Wine sponsorship was provided by Seismic Ventures.

Art discussed how new ideas get diffused throughout different industries and that only 5% of people make early decisions based solely on technical information. The model historically predicts that the early innovators, adopters and early majority representing 50% of all groups are the ones that will profit the most on new ideas and plays. Art also discussed how risk management teams in oil companies often don't work well because a person not involved in the project manages with a pre-determined outcome in mind. The Barnett Shale analogy showed that most players now are in the late majority class and will fail economically due to the high cost of playing late in the game. Art illustrated very well how the Barnett Shale play follows the Diffusion model, those that get in early- win.



George Bole, John Jurasin (Public Relations), Craig Stichtenoth and Amparo Kennedy (Deal Buyers List) enjoying lunch.



John Parrish, Paul Bunkers and Seismic Ventures Rep. Sara Davis head up the line.



Guest Robert Dollison chatting with speaker Art Berman before the talk.

**SIPES Houston Chapter  
2006  
Membership Directory**



[www.sipes-houston.org](http://www.sipes-houston.org)

**The 2006 Houston Chapter  
Directory is Here!**

The new updated Directory for the Houston Chapter of SIPES will be available to members at our monthly luncheon meetings. Be the first to have a copy of this useful tool for networking with local SIPES members. Directories are also available from the SIPES office. The printing of the directory was generously underwritten by our color advertisers, all Houston Chapter members and Affiliates.

**Technical Article Needed  
for the *SIPES Quarterly***

The Houston Chapter of SIPES is responsible for furnishing a technical article that will appear in the February, 2008 issue of the *SIPES Quarterly* newsletter. This article can be about new technology, industry activity or research being conducted in an area that would be interesting to independents.

If you are interested in contributing an article, please contact Jim Norris at 713-376-9361.

**March Chapter Board Meeting**

Discussions at the March 15, 2007 Chapter Board Meeting included the following:

- Jim Grubb (membership chairman) presented a membership application for Steve Jackson which was reviewed and approved for submission to SIPES National.
- Jim Norris (Chmn. Elect) indicated that plans are underway for the 2007 Fall Social to be held in November.
- Steve Hartzell (Cont. Ed. Chmn.) noted that a number of interesting speakers with timely topics are being considered for the Continuing Education Seminar to be held in September.



*Upcoming SIPES Meetings*

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|-------------------------|---|
| <b>May 17, 2007</b>     | <b>SIPES Luncheon at Petroleum Club</b> , speaker Richard Adams, Carr Resources, on <i>“Basement Tectonics and Origin of the Sabine Uplift”</i>   |
| <b>June 7, 2007</b>     | <b>SIPES Luncheon at Petroleum Club</b> , speaker Skip Hobbs, Ammonite Resources, on <i>“The Future of the Global Oil Industry: Resources, Challenges and the Geoscience Workforce”</i> |
| <b>June 18-21, 2007</b> | <b>SIPES Annual Meeting, Monterey, California</b>   |

*Upcoming HGS Events*

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|-----------------------|--|
| <b>April 9, 2007</b>  | <b>General Dinner Meeting:</b> Westchase Hilton, 9999 Westheimer Rd., 5:30 p.m.        |
| <b>April 16, 2007</b> | <b>International Dinner Meeting:</b> Westchase Hilton, 9999 Westheimer Rd., 5:30 p.m.  |
| <b>April 23, 2007</b> | <b>North American Dinner Meeting:</b> Westchase Hilton, 9999 Westheimer Rd., 5:30 p.m. |
| <b>April 25, 2007</b> | <b>Joint HGS &amp; SPE General Luncheon:</b> Petroleum Club, 11:30 a.m.                |