

October 2016



MONTANA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 61 No. 1

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Learn more about the RMS-AAPG Foundation & its purpose in a summary by Rob Diedrich.



P9 / MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2017 by using the form within this newsletter or visiting mtgeo.org.

Upcoming Events:

November 3 - Beer30:

MGS Speaker Dave Fishbaugh, discussing Iceland

November 14 - Luncheon:

Guest Speaker Kitty Milliken, AAPG Distinguished Lecturer.

Stay tuned for more details.

Contact Us:

mtgeo.org / montanageologicalsociety@gmail.com

Add our email address to your contacts so your Newsletters & Luncheon announcements don't end up in Spam!

PO Box 844
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President's Letter



Dear Membership,

Sometimes it seems as if you're on the top of the world and the sun shines on your every move. The feeling may be, in a big way, a product of those around you. That has been my experience being a part of MGS. It would have been easy to tell Jay Gunderson, then President, that I was way too busy to get involved in any organization. After all, I had two teenagers at home, 100 sheep, and a 65 mile commute each day. The friendly welcome I received at the first board meeting and the convincing argument that I just had to be the Treasurer the first year made it all so simple. But now it's time for me to write the President's letter at a time when large part of the organizational leadership will be leaving with the closing of SM Energy in Billings. Was the MGS rock moving out from under my feet, or was it just another experience like the one I had on our first backpack trip this summer?

After a "harder than I remembered" backpack into Princess Lake in the Beartooth Mountains, and a good night's sleep, we had one of those June days you can only hope for. We hiked up to Avalanche Lake below Granite Peak to fish and explore. It was warm enough that we took a quick dip between the last icebergs to rinse off the sweat from the hike. We carefully made our way to the other side of the lake where a stream entered and began to fish. Fishing was slow, so I went exploring to where the snow chute on the opposite side enters the lake. I found a ledge about ten feet above the surface where I could look straight down into the crystal clear 10-20 ft deep water. There were fish everywhere, and when I dropped my streamer in, the 12-16 inch cutthroats came in hot pursuit. I called my kids and friend Simon over to get into



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the action. I said, “Just come over here, and drop your fly in like this” as I stepped onto the rock ledge. Simon came over to see as I lowered my fly into the water.

When I went to set the hook, the ledge I was standing on started to slide into the lake. Simon grabbed my shirt and pulled me back. My butt was able to catch the new edge and my legs dangled. The very large block splashed down exposing the fracture plane dipping steeply into the ice water. They all laughed as I caught my breath. Notice the fracture trend below Emma, who was still wondering about her Dad 15 minutes later.



But like that day, when the rock seemed to be moving out from under my feet at MGS, there were friends there to grab me. Sarah Friedman, Tom Hewett, and Jessica Renstrom stepped up to fill the soon-to-be vacant positions. After the transition board meeting, I left with the feeling that all will be okay. Yes, it is good to be surrounded by friends, and the MGS is good place to meet new ones. The SM crew will be deeply missed at our MGS gatherings, and I only hope they have good friends in their new adventures to grab them as the rocks start rolling.

Kevin Chandler
MGS President



I'm always making the kids position themselves for scale on one of my “geology” pictures.

MGS Classifieds

Have something geological to sell, give, or find? Place a free ad in our MGS Classifieds!

Contact the Newsletter Editor for more information.

Who's Who of the MGS

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Jessica Renstrom 294-7841

Have you renewed your Membership for 2017?

If not, get it done before the hustle & bustle of the Holiday season arrives!

Use our convenient online renewal system at mtgeo.org, or print & complete the renewal form at the back of the Newsletter!

FREE: Comprehensive collection of microfiche, a microfiche reader, & a microfiche scanner. Microfiche collection includes well logs from Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, & some Colorado, ranging from T 1 N through T 164 N. The total lot is organized by location in metal file drawers, appx. 2' deep x 5' high x 2.5' across (plus the reader & scanner). If interested, please contact Jessica Renstrom at 294-7841.

Letter from the Editor

After a hiatus from MGS activities since my daughter's birth in February, I am very pleased to be returning to the MGS as Newsletter Editor & Website Coordinator. Even so, this return is bittersweet with the departure of so many wonderful friends from SM Energy. I, like Kevin Chandler, wish you all the best of luck in your journeys.

With so many changes occurring within our Society & our community, I feel it's the right time to transform our Newsletter as well. Over the next year, I will be adding to and changing up our Newsletter to better suit the needs & wishes of our membership, and I'd love your help. If you have suggestions or topics you'd like to see in the MGS Newsletter, or perhaps even a "Letter to the Editor," please send your ideas my way. Likewise, if you'd like to share a geological experience (a trip, hike, etc.) or an upcoming event, please submit your text & images to jess.renstrom@gmail.com.

Until Next Month!
Jess Renstrom

MGS at 2016 Pacific/RMS-AAPG Section Meeting...

Vegas, Baby!

As many of you know, the Pacific/Rocky Mountain Section Joint AAPG Conference was last week in Las Vegas. And let me just say, Vegas is not for the faint of heart! The conference itself was held in the Paris Hotel; full of crepes, French wines, and of course a 460' tall replica of the Eiffel Tower. After finally getting over the initial shock of all that Vegas has to offer, it was time to spend the next two days immersing myself in the latest technologies and developments in the Rockies and Pacific region. The conference began with a joint awards ceremony where two of our MGS members received awards. Mark Millard was given the A.I. Levorson award (Best Paper) for a talk he gave at the 2014 regional AAPG in Denver. More importantly, however, our own Betsy Campen was awarded the 2016 Robert J. Weimer Lifetime Contributions Award. This award is given to one member a year in recognition of their lifetime contributions to the practice of geosciences and/or petroleum geology in the region of the Rocky Mountains. For those that have worked with Betsy, her receiving of this award should be of no surprise, as it is difficult to find someone more worthy of the award. Unfortunately, Betsy wasn't able to attend the conference, so a representative of the MGS accepted it on her behalf. It will, however, be presented to her at an upcoming MGS luncheon. If you see her, please give her a pat on the back for receiving this very prestigious award. If we want our fellow MGS members to be recognized for awards such as this one, it should be our honor and duty to nominate them for local and regional awards.

Following the awards session, we were treated to 3 full days of insightful talks and posters that ranged from geochemistry in the Williston Basin, to deep water Turbidites in California. In fact, 3 members of the MGS presented talks at the conference; all of which were very well received. Alas, after filling my brain with geo-knowledge, and emptying my pockets, it was time to head back to good ole Montana. So, for those that missed out, next year's AAPG will be in our own Backyard: Right here in Billings. Having been to many of these conferences myself, I can tell you, one of the best ways to fully benefit from these conferences is not only to attend the various sessions, but also present research yourself. Time to dust off those old maps and prepare a poster or talk.

Until next year,
Viva Las Vegas!

Mark Millard

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Rocky Mountain Section Annual Meeting



RMS-AAPG

2017 JUNE 25-28
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Registration and call for papers forthcoming.

Bring the family! Visit Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks, fish the Big Horn River, drive the spectacular Beartooth Pass, and visit the Little Bighorn Battlefield!

For more information contact:
Robert Schalla, General Chairman
Phone: (406) 294-3525
Email: covecreekresources@msn.com

Hosted by the Montana Geological Society





RMS-AAPG Foundation

Update from Rob Diedrich

The Rocky Mountain Section AAPG Foundation held its annual meeting on October 3rd during the RMS AAPG Conference in Las Vegas. The RMS-AAPG Foundation was established by the AAPG Rocky Mountain Section for the purpose of providing grants or loans to the member societies and other organizations. The Foundation's mission is to:

- advance the study of petroleum geology in the Rocky Mountain region
- support publication of geologic research
- promote continuing professional education of petroleum geologists
- assist the teaching and study of geology in public and private schools and institutions of higher learning
- enhance the public's awareness and appreciation of geology

One of initiatives the Foundation has successfully implemented over the last four years is a program to provide grants to colleges and universities in the Rocky Mountain Section that initiate or maintain an active AAPG Student Chapter. Nearly twenty schools have taken advantage of these grants over the last few years including Rocky Mountain College in Billings and the University of Montana in Missoula. The Board of Directors voted to continue this program for the 2016-17 academic year at the grant level of \$1000, distributed to Student Chapters that provide documentation for their active status.

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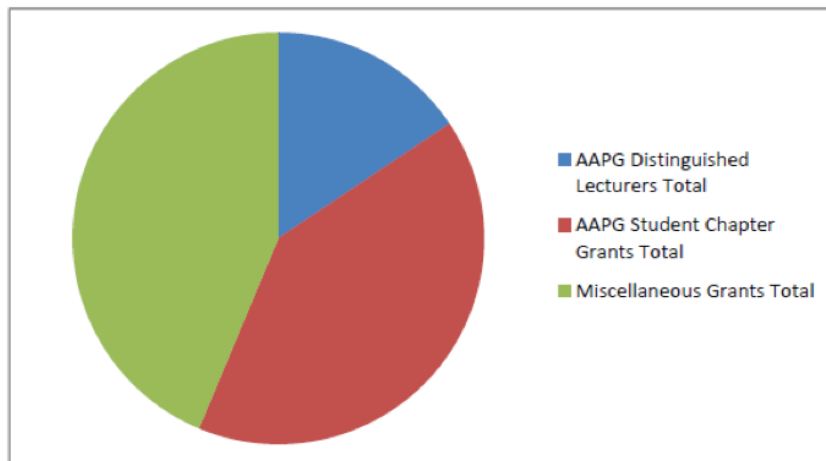
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Through the years the Foundation has provided support for the Affiliated Societies that host AAPG Distinguished Lecturers by offering grants for reimbursement for the AAPG fee charged to small societies (<300 members). The Montana Geological Society consistently takes advantage of this program and has used these grants, currently at \$365 per speaker, to fund six AAPG DL's since 2015.

The chart below summarizes the categories for grant disbursement by the Foundation over the last seven years, totalling nearly \$140,000. Miscellaneous grants include financial support for a broad range of categories, from field trips and guidebooks sponsored by Affiliated Societies to support for unemployed geoscientists attending PTTC continuing education classes. For example the Foundation provided financial support to the MGS for the purpose of converting legacy field trip road logs to digital format including GIS coordinates.

Please visit our website at <http://aapgrms.org/rms-foundation> to learn more about the RMS AAPG Foundation and how to apply for grants.

Rob Diedrich
President and Director RMS AAPG Foundation



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2006 AAPG Datapages - MGS Publications DVD		\$180.00	
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2000 50th Anniversary Symposium		\$125.00	
1998 8th Int'l Williston Basin Symposium		\$55.00	
1998 8th Int'l Williston Basin Symposium Core Workshop		\$30.00	
1997 Big Horn Basin Symposium		\$50.00	
1997 MGS-TRGS: The Edge of the Crazyes		\$25.00	
1997 AAPG - Rocky Mtn. Section Meeting / Abstract Volume		\$16.00	
1995 7th International Williston Basin Symposium - Core Workshop		\$30.00	
1995 7th International Williston Basin Symposium		\$100.00	
1995 Big Horn Basin Symposium		\$40.00	
1996 AAPG - Rocky Mtn. Section Meeting / Abstract Volume		\$25.00	
1993 Energy and Mineral Resources of Montana		\$54.00	
1991 6th International Williston Basin Symposium		\$55.00	
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1991 AAPG - RMS Field Trip: Eagle Sandstone, Billings		\$7.50	
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1991 Sequence Stratigraphy of Eagle Sandstone		\$7.50	
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