

MARINE TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY

HOUSTON SECTION

ISSUE:2/2012



marine technology
SOCIETY

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FEBRUARY 23 - LUNCHEON

Thursday, February 23, 2012

11:30 am - Registration

11:45 am - Lunch

1:00 pm - Meeting Concludes

LOCATION:

Pelazzio (Westheimer/West Houston)
12121 Westheimer,
Houston TX 77077

COST:

Prepaid - members \$30.00

Prepaid - non members \$40.00

Walks in and all others: \$50.00

RESERVATIONS/CANCELLATIONS:

On-line: www.mtshouston.org

e.mail: mtsh@mtshouston.org

Registration (with payment) will close

5:00 pm February 21, 2012.

The Development of An Emergency Response Initiative in the Gulf of Mexico

As the Macondo well gradually came under control in August 2010, discussions regarding future response requirements were taking place within the industry. Four major oil companies had announced a billion-dollar initiative. BP was actively refining the lessons learned from the Macondo response and identifying key components used in that response, and Helix was assessing the role of its assets and the potential for a first response role in the future. As the various response plans took shape, the viability of smaller independent oil companies in the new regulatory environment became an issue. The magnitude of the Macondo incident in terms of scope of personnel, equipment and financial outlay far exceeded the resources of smaller operators.

HELIX ESG began response planning based on current assets, reviewing the modifications that would be required to speed up deployment, and determining what certified equipment would need to be installed to replace temporary components used on vessels during a response. This equipment initiative required funding and industry support. An alliance of independent operators was formed to ensure that Gulf of Mexico operators would be able to obtain drilling permits and respond effectively to a major subsea well malfunction should one occur.

An independent group of operators led by Noble Energy and Anadarko agreed to form a not-for-profit organization under the auspices of the existing Clean Gulf entity. The Helix Well Containment Group (HWCG) response was based on using the full infrastructure available in the Gulf of Mexico and mutual cooperation between companies, thus allowing personnel, equipment and planning to be shared. The starting point was that Macondo had defined response requirements. The resources used for

Macondo were already in existence and being used to support day-to-day operations in the Gulf of Mexico. It was determined that this operating equipment, available in the open market, was the most reliable equipment to use in a response. This was refined into a philosophy based on commercially self sustained equipment and personnel, extended mutual cooperation, a uniform well-containment plan, standard well evaluation tools for permitting, and an inventory of commonly held shared equipment for emergency use.

The Helix Fast Response System provides the core assets required for a rapid and effective response. These assets are combine with the processes, procedures, planning and shared infrastructure of the member operators and select regional service providers. This initiative will allow large and small operators in the deep water arena to continue operations with the confidence that an emergency of the magnitude of the Deepwater Horizon event can be effectively controlled.

About the speaker

Kurt Hurzeler grew up in Houston where he discovered fishing, sailing, water skiing, football and girls. After five years of studying English and Russian literature with a minor in economics at the University of Texas, he discovered the offshore oil industry. Motivated by debt and the desire to travel without joining the military he worked internationally in the drilling fluid services segment for 12½ years. He eventually returned to the US and after seven years with Schlumberger Oilfield Services, shifted focus from integrated project management to the Helix Well Ops business unit focused on intervention and well decommissioning. Kurt has 34 years in the oil service industry, the last twenty of which have been applied to the Gulf of Mexico and western hemisphere markets.

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MARINE OFFSHORE INDUSTRY OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

March 29, 2012

The 35th Annual Marine/Offshore Industry Outlook Conference will be held March 29 at the Hilton Houston Westchase Hotel and will take the place of our regularly scheduled luncheon. This is a half-day conference structured to help industry managers, leaders and industry observers plan for the future by providing a three-year forecast of developments, trends and critical issues facing the marine/offshore industry.

The Conference addresses both domestic and international issues, legislation, developments in the Gulf of Mexico and financial planning efforts of the offshore oil and gas industry.

The event will conclude with a luncheon and presentation on future development opportunities for the industry.

Time will be provided for questions and answers after each session.

OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

April 30 - May 3, 2012

As a sponsor of the Offshore Technology Conference, MTS Houston is looking for volunteers to help at the Conference April 30-May 3, 2012.

Volunteers work a half-day shift. OTC is looking for volunteers to assist with Arrangements (monitoring Technical Sessions) or with Registration (greeting attendees, answering questions, etc.) Visit the website for more information.

Volunteers will receive a **four-day pass to OTC and a four-day parking pass.**

This is a most rewarding and fun volunteer activity with great benefits! Please consider signing up!

The Volunteer Form can be downloaded from the website site. mtshouston.org/otc_volunteers.htm

Please check the Marine Technology Society box (#50)

Evening Reception - March 28

An evening reception hosted by the MTS Houston Section Young Professionals will be held on March 28, also at the Westchase Hilton, starting at 5:30 pm. The reception is included in the Conference fee of \$125.00. The cost for those who only wish to attend the reception is \$20 (with paid reservations in advance) or \$25 for walk-ins. Please note that sponsors are invited to support this event - see the Chairman's Message (page 3) and the website for details.

The Conference program, registration and other details are all available on the website at www.mtshouston.org/outlook.cfm

There is a 250 attendee limit for the conference. Please register early and pay online to avoid disappointment. Reservations without payment will be forfeited if the attendance limit is reached.

Conference Sponsors

The Outlook Conference is sponsored by the MTS, NOIA and the Texas Sea Grant Program

under Sponsoring Organizations (it is highlighted), complete the form and email it to Chris Torsy at ctorsy@otcnet.org. Fax: 1-866-491-7171.

SCIENCE FAIR

March 1-3, 2012

One of the really inspiring annual events supported by the Section is the annual Science and Engineering Fair of Houston.

This year's event will be held at the George R. Brown Convention Center, March 1-3, 2012.

If you are looking to be impressed, please volunteer as a judge. To volunteer, contact Charles Royce, at 713-329-4568 or croyce@oceanengineering.com

After more years that we dare report, Charles is stepping down from his position as MTS Houston Science Fair Chair. We are looking for someone to fill his rather large shoes. Contact a board member if interested.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Aimee Marsh, Chair

Young Professionals

It might just be that I am getting older, and I trust this is not my imagination, but I have recently noticed a lot more younger faces showing up at our luncheons and events. In an industry that seems to be getting “grayer” every year, this has to be a positive sign. The future of the industry rests with new, young blooded professionals with sharp minds. It is these folk who will become tomorrow’s innovators, taking us no doubt into ever deeper and more remote locations over the next few decades.

MTS Houston Section has an active and vibrant Young Professionals Section, originally spearheaded by our Vice Chair, Steve Faley. But keeping up the group’s momentum is not always easy. Most of the “under 35s” in the industry tend to get worked pretty hard, while often juggling full private lives and young families. In addition, some of the key members of the Young Professionals have been transferred to new positions - one as far away as Australia.

As you will read on page 2, the Young Professionals will be hosting this year Outlook Conference Reception. The YPs are asking for our help. First, they are looking for Reception sponsors. Sponsorship packages ranging from Event Sponsorship at the \$3,000 level to Silver Sponsorships for \$500 each. Your generous sponsorship support will help fund the YPs ongoing educational and professional development activities. The YPs also need volunteers to help with Reception arrangements and registration. Please contact Eric Lieb, the Event Leader at (281) 263-6872 or eric.Lieb@fluor.com. And please help spread the word! If you have younger engineers and other professionals in your organization who might benefit from being part of this group, please invite them to an upcoming lunch or MTS Houston event. Of course if you are already an MTS members and are under 35 - or so - and are not part of this group, please contact one of the Young Professionals.

Continued on next page



YP Contacts

Eric Lieb
Eric.Lieb@fluor.com

Alok Shirolkar
Alok.shirolkar@universalpegasus.com

Jessica Montoya
Jessica.Montoya@schilling.com

Lauren Lionberger
Lauren.Lionberger@omsmeasure.com

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 3

Volunteering

MTS Houston Section is run by volunteers who fill a wide range of positions. For the past few years, Ivy Jody-Castillo has headed up the "sign in" table at our luncheons, keeping track of the number of people attending each event and accepting late payments. Now, in her position as Section Secretary, she needs someone to take over the front desk! This is a fun position which brings you into contact with dozens of people each month.

DYNAMIC POSITIONING CONFERENCE

October 9-10, 2012

Following last year's conference - which sold out - the DP Conference will be hosted at a new location this year, the Westin Houston Memorial City hotel on Gessner, a new hotel with impressive conference facilities and general amenities.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Dynamic Positioning Committee has issued a Call for Papers for DP 2012. Please visit the website at <http://www.dynamic-positioning.com> for more information or to submit an abstract online. Abstracts should be submitted by the end of April.

EXHIBITING

Exhibit registration for the conference has opened and is already 50% sold out. If you are interested in exhibiting, please book your space now! Booths are \$2,000 and include two conference passes. Visit the website for a floor plan and to register.

About This Announcement

The **MTS Houston Section Announcement** is published monthly (11 issues a year) and distributed electronically and in hard copy format to industry professionals.

Logo sponsorship (\$150 a year) and advertising opportunities are available.

Please send articles and news items about upcoming events to the editor. Deadline for submissions is the first Thursday of the month of issue.

To include your logo, advertise or to receive this Announcement by mail, please send your name, company, address, phone; fax and e-mail address to Liz Stansfeld at mtsh@mtshouston.org.

We are also losing another of our long-time volunteers. Charles Royce, whose name has become synonymous with the Science Fair, will step down after this year's event. We are looking for a replacement to take over organizing judges for the annual competition.

Please contact Terry Dahlke, Volunteer Chair at (713) 986-4477 or any board members if you would like to volunteer for either of these positions.

LUNCHEONS

\$30 for members (\$40 for non members) with paid reservations by **Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 5:00 p.m. \$50 for unpaid reservations and walk-ins.**

Full-time students \$15.

Cancellations accepted up to 5:00 p.m. **TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2012.**

Pay online with a credit card or mail a check to 9300 Sandstone, Austin, TX 78737. **No credit cards at door!**

Note: PLEASE PAY WHEN YOU REGISTER. If you do NOT prepay for your luncheon, your reservation will be cancelled and you will be counted as a walk in and charged \$50!

LOGO SPONSORSHIP

Logo sponsorships expire at year end. If you are a sponsor, you will have receive an invoice in December for 2012. If you have not yet paid your invoice, your logo will be dropped next month. Cost of sponsoring is **STILL ONLY \$150 a year.**



marine technology
SOCIETY

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Houston Section MTS
777 N. Eldridge Suite 280
Houston, Texas 77079

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Lunch Arrangements: Ivy Jody-Castillo, Shea Writing & Training Solutions: 713.723-9142

Member Scholarship: Dewayne Hollin, Texas A&M: 979.845.3857

OTC Volunteers: Sandor Karpathy, Stress Subsea, Inc.: 281.890.7386

Programs: Sandor Karpathy, Stress Subsea, Inc.: 281.890.7386

Ropes and Tension Committee Chair: Evan Zimmerman, Delmar Systems: 832.252.7100

Science Fair: Charles Royce, Oceaneering: 713.329.4568

Sporting Clays Chair: Jennifer Williams, Saipem America: 281.552.5962

Student Affairs: Chuck Richards, CA Richards & Assoc: 281.531.7417

Assistant Treasurer - Lauren Lionberger, Optical Metrology Services, 832.230-0153

Volunteers: Terry Dahlke, Geospace Offshore: 713.986.4477

Young Professionals: Alok Shirolkar, UniversalPegasus: 713.365-8346

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Cables and Connectors

Helmut Portmann, NOAA

DP Committee

Howard Shatto, Shatto Engineering: 713.467.8616

DP Conference

Chuck Richards
C. A. Richards & Assoc. 281.531.7417

Marine Archaeology

Ayse Devrim Atauz, Texas A&M

Offshore Technology Conference

Doug Stroud, Canyon Offshore: 713.856.6010

Remotely Operated Vehicles

Drew Michel, 713.557.3159

PUBLICITY

Liz Stansfeld: Stansfeld & Fairbrother:
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