

**AAPG-RMS Meeting
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Technical Program Notes
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Oral Sessions

The key to generating good oral sessions was based on selecting topics of current interest, (in our case shale gas plays) and then recruiting good experienced session chairs to go out and recruit the talks. This system is tried and true and once again worked very well. Once the session chairs were named, we had a “kickoff” conference call to get things started. That generated some interest but probably was not necessary. I sent regular email communications to the session chairs reminding them of deadlines and what we expected and all session chairs responded well and did their job. We had a few late submissions after the deadline but they were minor and easily added. Terri Duncan and the AAPG abstract submission website is an absolute must for organizing the inflow of abstracts. She was extremely helpful in organizing the data and sending out all of the communication with the authors and session chairs.

At the meeting, sessions generally ran on time with little to no problems. Again empowering the session chairs to eliminate questions and speed presenters along where necessary generated good results. AV ran almost flawlessly. Best advice here is use people who do it for a living. Do not try and save a few dollars and take this responsibility on yourself. Speaker ready room was open from 3 to 6 the before each oral session for presenters to have their talks loaded onto the AV laptops. This seemed to work well but only about 50-75% of the talks ended up loaded the day before. Longer hours at the ready Room would have made no difference. Many authors just showed up the day of their talk anyway. All in all, each session was ready to go and loaded before it started and empowering the Session Chairs to find and press their authors probably helped in this matter. A few AV problems existed in non compatibility of PowerPoint presentations that were saved out of the new Windows Vista operation system but the authors with problems were able to find laptops from friends that had Vista and they then saved out their presentation in an older file format and all was well. Next time, have at least one laptop with the most recent MS operating system to alleviate this issue. Oral sessions were very crowded and we had trouble moving people into the room as they all gather at the door. Simply removing the last row of chairs so people could access the other the side of the room with out interrupting the speaker presentation seemed to alleviate this issue.

Poster Sessions

No problems at all with regards to the Poster Sessions. Posters were not invited by the session chairs but rather came in through the call for papers. We purposely solicited as

session chairs members of nearby university faculties to insure a good student turnout for the posters. This worked very well but you should also have an experienced industry person as the Poster Chair to insure all runs smoothly. Russ Griffin filled that role for us. Probably half of the posters were students and the other half from industry. Once Poster board setup was complete, each author arrived, set up and was ready to go. A few ignored the instructions and brought too many displays for the allotted booth but that problem was easily solve by having a couple of extra display boards in the corner of the room or “robbing” from authors who only had one poster to display. No matter how many times you tell people to bring their own maps pins or tape, invariably they show up without material to hang their posters so plan on having a box of pins for people’s use.

Core Poster Session

These sessions were designed to incite interest in the meeting and bring people in. I think it worked but it is tough to know for sure. Attendance at the core poster booths was steady to heavy most of the day. The cores tend to get more traffic if there is an attendant oral session presentation. Booth lighting was a real problem. Even with secondary booth lights, it was still difficult to have sufficient light to do a real review of the core. Too many lights make the space hot and uncomfortable so I think a balance of natural lighting and booth lights are a good compromise. Core handling could have been a real pain but came off remarkably well thanks to the help of the Utah Core Research Center staff. Moving core around the hotel was a little troublesome as the hotel could not transfer pallets to the poster rooms so we had to transfer it to carts. This would have been fine but the hotel carts were set up to move food and dishes around as opposed to heavy core boxes. Heavier duty open carts or access to core poster room with pallets would have helped. All in all though it came off without any problems and no core was either lost or damaged. Clear plastic covers were available for each author to protect their core during the times they were not available in the booth. This took minutes to install and worked very well.

Speaker Gifts

The speaker gifts were supported by an earmarked donation and were aimed at being a memorable memento for the presenter’s efforts. They cost more than a typical gift but each was unique unto itself and represented the geology of the Utah host state. I received good feedback from presenters of the gifts quality and uniqueness. The key was outside financial support to make it possible however.