



## NORTHWEST GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A regional association of professionals, students & others interested in geology  
Please browse [www.nwgs.org](http://www.nwgs.org) for more about us

### March, 2009 Newsletter

Volume 23, Number 3

#### March 10 Program Speaker

**Speaker:** Don Swanson, USGS Hawai'ian Volcano Observatory

**Title:** Kilauea, an explosive, not milquetoast, volcano!!

**Speaker Abstract:** Kilauea is justly known for its colorful lava flows and spectacular lava fountains. But there is another, darker, side to Kilauea's volcanic activity. Kilauea is an explosive volcano. It explodes about as often as does Mount St. Helens and many other volcanoes considered to be explosive. The explosions at Kilauea may not necessarily produce as much tephra, but they can be powerful, lethal, and hazardous to air traffic as well as to people near the vent. The designation of Kilauea as an explosive volcano may surprise some readers, but it would have been nothing special to people living in the 16th-18th centuries, when explosions probably took place every few decades or, at times, more often. Pele is prone to temper tantrums, probably a reflection of her explosive nature. Since Europeans arrived on the island, however, Kilauea has been in a relatively quiet, effusive, period. Its frequent eruptions of lava flows lull the public, and many volcanologists as well, into thinking that Kilauea is a milquetoast volcano. Such a reputation is unjustified.

5:30pm: No-host social hour  
6:30pm: Buffet dinner  
7:30pm: Speaker program  
All are welcome to attend —  
reservations are required  
if coming for dinner.

**PROGRAM DINNER RESERVATIONS:** NWGS members: \$30; Non-members: \$35; Full-time students : \$10. Add \$5 for LATE REGISTRATION. Mail check to [Ginny Agnew](mailto:Ginny Agnew), 935 Pine St., Edmonds, WA. 98020 (must be received by Thursday prior to meeting). Contact her at 425-776-6151 or [agnewv@msn.com](mailto:agnewv@msn.com).

*If attending the speaker program only, a \$5 voluntary donation to help defray the meeting room cost is greatly appreciated.*

**Location:** Pacific Dining Hall at the [Talaris Conference Center](#), 4000 NE 41st St., Seattle, WA. Ph 206-268-7000. **Directions:** See [on-line directions with map](#), or: from I-5 northbound or southbound in Seattle, take Exit 168B (NE 45th St.). Drive east on NE 45th St. past UW down the hill and past University Village. Turn south (right) onto Mary Gates Memorial Drive at the 5-way intersection. MGM Drive will curve east (left) and become NE 41st St. Continue several blocks to the [Talaris Conference Center](#) entrance on the north (left) side.

#### Upcoming Speakers and Field Trips

April Speaker: Tim Walsh, Washington DNR Geology, [Tsunami hazards](#).

May Speaker: Jody Bourgeois, UW, [Does Kamchatka belong to North America?](#)

Spring, 2009 Field Trip: Possibilities are in the works. Send your suggestions to [Greg Ferris](#).

Fall, 2009 Field Trip: Options are being discussed. Send your suggestions to [Greg Ferris](#).

Fall, 2009 Field Trip, *Special Edition*: Kilauea Volcano, Big Island of Hawai'i, Sept. 16-21. Leaders: Tom Bush, Lynn Simmons, and Don Swanson. Volcanically monitor your inbox for registration information, available soon!

#### Other Announcements

**2009 ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE!** Please send dues (\$30 professional, \$5 student) to [Dan Smith](#), 10203 40<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Seattle, WA. 98146. *Thank you if you have already paid.*

**Your research posters are requested!** If you have a poster conveying your research, whether at the undergraduate, graduate, or professional level, please bring it to our next meeting for display! POSTERS ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED AT ALL MONTHLY GATHERINGS! Also, please contact [Lars Gilmour](#) for information on the official student poster session competition at the *May, 2009* meeting. **Big prizes!!!**

**Résumé board:** The résumé board is now available again. If you are looking for work in geology, bring your résumé to post. If you are an employer looking to hire a geologist, come and peruse the available talent!

**Amelia June Bush** was born to proud parents Tom and Veronica Bush on February 23, weighing in at 7 lbs, 15 oz. She is healthy and happy, and parents are recovering nicely!

**Next Board Meeting:** March 10, 4:30pm, [Talaris Conference Center](#).

*Please see the [NWGS website](#) for detailed announcements.*

*Contact webmaster [Julie Masura](#) if you have any announcements to post on the website.*

## Photo Spotlight

Steaming Halema'uma'u crater within Kilauea caldera, Kilauea volcano, Big Island of Hawai'i. This vent opened and began fuming in March of 2007, and since then, has produced several small tephra explosions. Recent thermal infrared imaging by the USGS's [Hawai'ian Volcano Observatory](#) (HVO) has shown that a lava lake, about 130 yards below the vent rim, has developed, and that it undergoes [pulsed filling and drainback](#) (scroll down to 7 Feb. 2009 on this link). NWGS members may visit this and other nearby exciting volcanic locations on the upcoming field trip to Kilauea (see Upcoming Field Trips above). Photo from [HVO](#).



Your geology photo submissions (~1MB) with captions are appreciated. Please email to Newsletter Editor [Tom Bush](#).

## About NWGS

[NWGS](#), a regional association of professionals, students & other persons interested in **geology**, provides a forum for the presentation and discussion of a wide range of geologic topics, emphasizing those of the Pacific Northwest or of fundamental scientific interest. **Program meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, October through May in the Pacific Dining Hall at the [Talaris Conference Center](#) in Seattle (see 1<sup>st</sup> page). Anyone may attend the speaker program, but a reservation is necessary for those wanting dinner (see 1<sup>st</sup> page). **Field trips (members only):** one in late spring/early summer and one in late summer/early fall, usually of 1-3 days in length. **Membership** is open to anybody with a professional or amateur interest in geology. **Annual dues:** Professional: \$30; Student: \$5. **To join or pay annual dues:** send a check payable to NWGS to Treasurer [Dan Smith](#), 10203 40<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Seattle, WA. 98146. Please include your name, address, home phone, email, and employer/affiliation (if any).

## Recommended Readings

Gray, K. D., and Oldow, J. S., 2005, Contrasting structural histories of the Salmon River Belt & Wallowa Terrane: implications for terrane accretion in northeastern Oregon & west-central Idaho, GSA Bulletin, Vol. 117, No. 5/6 (May/June), 687-706.

Giorgis, S., et. al., 2008, Timing & deformation & exhumation in the Western Idaho Shear Zone, Idaho, GSA Bulletin, Vol. 120, No. 9/10 (September/October), 1119-1123.

Please send your reading recommendations to Newsletter Editor [Tom Bush](#).

To report a change of email or postal address or request to be removed from mailings, notify Secretary [Dan Smith](#) at 206.937.5313. Questions or comments? Contact President [Donn Charnley](#) at 206.546.3868.

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