



# 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

## May, 2009 Newsletter

Volume 23, Number 5

### May 12 Program Speaker

**Speaker:** Jody Bourgeois, UW Dept. of Earth and Space Sciences

**Title:** Does Kamchatka belong to North America?

**Speaker Abstract:** This talk addresses one part of an outstanding tectonic problem regarding the nature of the plate boundary between Eurasia and North America in northeastern Russia. In this region, the northwestern corner of the Pacific plate interacts either simply with the North American plate, or more complexly with one or more blocks independent of North America. North of this corner, evidence of uplift, tilting, and convergence contradicts the prevailing, simpler model. On the Ozernoi Peninsula, ~150 km north of the subducting Pacific plate, marine terraces indicate uplift rates of 0.1 to 0.3 mm/yr, with faster rates to the east. Historic and paleoseismic records provide evidence for recurring tsunami-genic, thrust earthquakes offshore of the Ozernoi Peninsula, the most recent a Mw 7.7 earthquake in 1969. A multiplate model where an eastward-moving Okhotsk block, including most of Kamchatka, is converging with a clockwise-rotating Bering block better explains these observations than does the unbroken North American plate model.

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

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: Geology of Kilauea volcano and nearby locations of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea, Big Island of Hawai'i*, Sept. 16-21, 2009 (includes travel days), Tom Bush, Lynn Simmons, and Don Swanson. REGISTRATION IS NOW UNDERWAY-**only a few spots remain!** Please contact [Greg Ferris](#) (206.285.2119) for registration information. **DEADLINE IS MAY 31!!!** The [registration form](#)

### Other Announcements

Dr. Dwight R. (Rocky) Crandell (86) passed away from a heart attack on April 6 in hospice in Wheat Ridge, CO. He was well known for his pioneering work as a volcanologist with the U.S.G.S. With partner Donal Mullineaux, he helped delineate hazards from Mt. Rainier in the Puget Lowland, and correctly predicted in a 1978 publication the catastrophic eruption of Mt. St. Helens before the end of the century.

May 12 is *student poster session competition night!* Categories will include high school, community college (and GEOL 101), upper class, and graduate students. Cash prizes, free dinner, and free 1 year student membership!!! Please see [www.nwgs.org](http://www.nwgs.org) or contact [Lars Gilmour](#) (425.285.2852) for details! Entry deadline: 5/8!  
Next Board Meeting: May 12, 4:30pm, [Talaris Conference Center](#).

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

## Photo Spotlight

Palouse Falls at Palouse Falls State Park, Whitman County, WA. The Palouse River occupies one of the channels of the Channed Scablands carved by the Missoula floods. The bedrock is Wanapum Basalt of the Miocene Columbia River Basalt Group. Photo and caption submitted by Eric Cheney. Editor's note: of related interest is **HR 146**, the omnibus bill containing the authorization of the **Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail**, which has passed in both houses! Next stop: the President's desk. Thanks to **Dale Middleton** for all his dedication to this project! Please see [Ice Age Floods Institute](#) for more!



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 (kindly submitted by John Whitmer)

Pedoja, K., Bourgeois, J., Pinegina, T., and Higman, B., 2006, Does Kamchatka belong to North America? An extruding Okhotsk block suggested by coastal neotectonics of the Ozernoi Peninsula, Kamchatka, Russia, *Geology*, vol. 34, no. 5, 353-356.

Hammond, P.E., and Dragovich, J. D., 2008, Tuff of Stampede Pass and tuff of Green Canyon in the central Cascade Range, King and Kittitas Counties, Washington, Washington DNR Open File Report 2008-3, 1-8.

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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