

NORTHWEST GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A regional association of professionals, students & others interested in geology
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October, 2010 Newsletter

Volume 24, Number 8

October 12 Program Speaker

Speaker: Tom Pratt, Affiliate Professor, UW Dept. of ESS

Title: The Seattle fault: A new look at the cracks in our basement

Abstract: Seismic reflection profiles, geologic and topographic data, and computer modeling of fault slip are consistent with the northern edge of the Seattle fault zone (SFZ) being a blind thrust fault directly beneath downtown Seattle, about 1.5 km north of where previous estimates have placed it. Computer models of fault slip also indicate that ruptures on backthrusts within the SFZ are likely caused by moderate ($M\sim 6.5-6.7$) earthquakes on the main thrust faults, rather than being caused by small earthquakes ($M5.5-6.0$) restricted to the backthrusts. Backthrust ruptures have occurred at least 4 times in the past 2500 years, making moderate earthquakes the most likely SFZ hazard. These results suggest that the downtown area of Seattle could experience localized, fault-parallel ground rupture and tilting during both large events ($M7+$) and more moderate ($M\sim 6.5$) earthquakes.

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: **\$35**; Non-members: **\$40**; Full-time students : **\$15**. Add \$5 for LATE REGISTRATION. Mail check to 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.

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

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

November 9: TBA

December 7: TBA

January 11: TBA

February 8: TBA

March 8: TBA

April 12: TBA

May 10: TBA

Spring, 2011 FT: TBA

Fall, 2011 FT: TBA

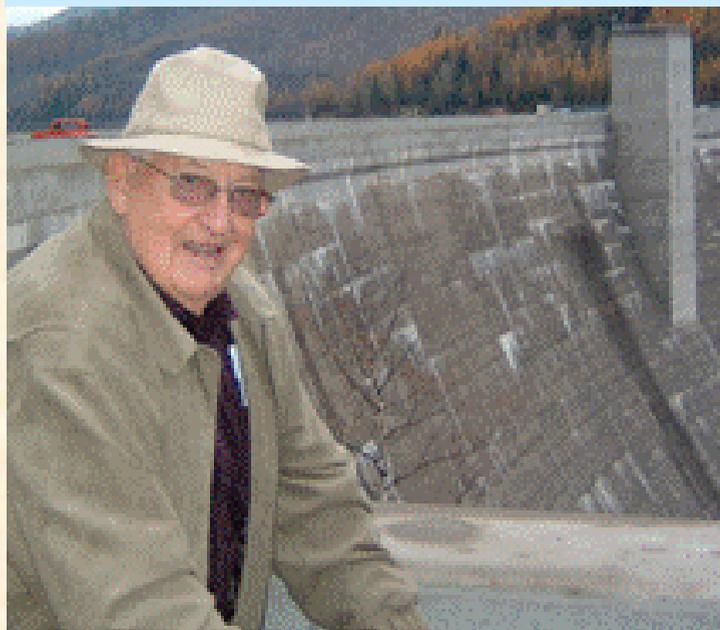
Please see the [NWGS website](#) for detailed announcements.

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

Announcements

- **Arthur B. Coulter**, former NWGS Treasurer and long-time member, passed away on July 19 from complications arising from a heart attack at the age of 89. He received his B.S. in geology from Mich. St. Univ. around the time of WWII and spent most of his career as a geological engineer in the petroleum business. For a complete celebration of the life of "Mr. ABC" as written by his son Tim, please see <http://www.nwgs.org/remembrances/remembrances.htm>
- **Next Board Meeting:** date, time, and location TBA (no meeting before the 10/12 gathering).
- Take the member survey at www.nwgs.org/.
- Upcoming **GSA Annual meetings:** 2010, Denver, Oct. 31-Nov. 3; 2011, Oct. 9-12, Minneapolis.

Photo Spotlight



Art Coulter at Hungry Horse Dam, November, 2009 (photo provided by son Tim Coulter).

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:** 2nd Tuesdays, October through May in the Pacific Dining Hall at the [Talaris Conference Center](#) in Seattle (see 1st page). Anyone may attend the speaker program, but a reservation is necessary for those wanting dinner (see 1st 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 40th Ave SW, Seattle, WA. 98146. Please include your name, address, home phone, email, and employer/affiliation (if any).

Recommended Readings

Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources. 2010. Geologic Maps of Washington. 21 March. retrieved from http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/ger_geologic_maps_wa.pdf.

Doughton, S. 2010. UW's geological map project struggles to survive. Seattle Times. 9 April. retrieved from http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2011562107_geomap09m.html.

Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources. 2010. Geologic Maps of Washington. 21 March. retrieved from <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/>

Please send your reading recommendations to Newsletter Editor Tom Bush.

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