

Oct. 12, 2005 – SNS/HFIR User Meeting

SHUG discussion lead by Angus Wilkinson

Angus presented an introductory presentation describing SHUG and the executive committee and what it does. Angus' powerpoint slides should be included as a reference

Introduce committee members - present Paul Butler, Mark Lumsden, Angus Wilkinson, Despina Louca, Steve Shapiro, Megan Robinson.

Upcoming Election

- Volunteers are needed for the upcoming elections to replace retiring members of the SHUG executive committee.
- A person is needed to act as the SHUG representative at SNUG (Synchrotron and Neutron User Group)
- SNUG is a group that advocates for the interests of BES User Facilities
- SHUG representative will participate in executive committee meetings

Communication with User Group Members

Q. How to improve communication between SHUG committee and user group members?

- email appears to be the preferred method of communication. People didn't seem too annoyed at the prospect of getting email messages from SHUG executive committee
- Angus - committee members are happy to receive email messages with suggestions
- Thomas Proffen - separate mailing lists may be a good idea- one that is higher priority and one that is simply general information. Keep an archive that can be maintained for future reference.
- Angus – if anyone has ideas on improving communications, let us know

User Meeting

Q. SHUG needs to develop plan for next User meeting in 2 years. What should program look like? What do users want at this meeting?

- Thomas Proffen - attach a neutron based workshop onto a more general meeting such as APS March Meeting. Hard to encourage new users to attend a neutron workshop but they will already attend other meetings
- Lecture tours - send people to universities who can talk about how neutrons enable them to do research. You need to go to the non-converted as opposed to the opposite approach (expecting them to come to you).
- Angus - one concern - the only way you get on these seminar series is for someone local to suggest someone. It's hard to get on these seminar lists.
- Despina - maybe we should think about organizing a special session at APS with invited talks about neutron scattering and advanced techniques.
- We want to market ourselves. Maybe we should consult marketing professionals to look into manners in which to do this.
- Angus - you can sell the idea that this would be a great thing to do but how do you sell the idea to potential users that they can do it themselves.
- We should ask people who did this for a living for advice on this manner (i.e. marketing professionals)
- Shapiro - the MRS meeting is rather efficient for having many symposia. It's easier to organize a symposium.
- Shapiro - initiate a Gordon conference for neutron scattering.
- Angus - you don't bring in people with no experience this way
- Ian Anderson - we have been trying to attach neutron sessions to targeted workshops to express what neutrons can do for them
- Angus - are workshops better for tutorial
- Jim Rhyne - one way is not to have special session but to lobby organizers to get neutron talks into other sessions. That way you don't talk simply to other neutron people.

- How is SHUG organizing with NSSA? Angus - in terms of funding issues, there are considerable communications. NSSA helped in making sure we know the best way to do things.

- Nagler - SHUG can help students be aware of the current summer schools that are running. We'd like to run a school at ORNL as well. This helps students learn in a hands-on environment.

- Nagler - If want people from CNS to give presentations at institutions, we can help mitigate the cost

- Just hearing a talk does not tell people how their own science can benefit from neutron scattering. It is better to collaborate with local staff. We should advocate to people doing other science.

- Carroll Johnson - need a good reference text book that can serve as a guide for users. Angus – a large amount of work is required to put this together. It's hard to find this information unless you already know something about neutron scattering. Providing educational resources for people is very important.

- Focusing on first time users. The most intimidating aspect for new users is writing a peer reviewed proposal for the first time. Angus - would it have been helpful to contact local staff to help in proposal process? Most likely this would help.

- Hal Smith - for many years, there was organized program (at ORAU/ORNL) to send people to universities at very little cost to university.

- Paul Sokol - university based sources (LENS/Missouri) can play a huge role in education aspects. Can also help first time users to come in and get some experience. Part of mission of LENS is education. This is a role that is appropriate for universities. NSSA should maintain links to resources for users - does anything exist? Rhyne - there are links on NSSA web site but they aren't organized in logical manner for users (theory, where to do initial experiments, etc.)

Issues related to user housing, user accounts, proposal process, sample policy, access policy, etc.

- Al Ekkebus - update - plans for laboratory to build housing. Not sure about the current funding mechanism but the plan is to have it available for first users in 2008. Funding mechanism shouldn't matter. It will be on the inexpensive but not cheap side. Survey sent out a couple of years ago - the results were that single rooms were requested with price between \$25-35 per night. The laboratory also

decided that this shouldn't be only for users but for other visitors as well. No final decision made yet. Angus - as decision hasn't been made, there is still room for input.

- User accounts - Al Ekkebus - policy on user accounts. If you only need typical things, you don't need one. If you have extraordinary needs, provisions will be made.

- Shapiro - for single crystal measurements, how do you align your crystal?
Angus - falls under short term (fast access) proposal aspect. Greg - crystal alignment could take considerable time. We need resources plus instrumentation to do this. Shapiro – should there be some allocation of time to do this? Nagler - ISIS has implemented a beamtime for aligning single crystals. This isn't in our user paradigm. Nagler - one possibility is an x-ray facility that can be used to the greatest extent possible.

Q. What should SHUG do at ACNS?

Next year there will be an ACNS meeting - what should SHUG do? Last year we simply had a poster at the poster session - is there anything else we should do?

Shapiro – we should speak to organizers - are there going to be user meetings at ACNS - communicating with the organizers is important.

- Paul – at the first ACNS we had a session organized by user groups. At the second ACNS, each user group put in what they wanted to do. User groups decided not to have user meeting but rather a reception to try to get people to communicate. Formal first year, informal second, need to decide which approach is best. Please give us feedback as to what you want - email SHUG executive.

Other questions for discussion that really were not addressed.

- How do we build a more active and engaged user community?
- Can we help nucleate groups of users or potential users who are interested in new instruments?