

SNS HFIR User Group (SHUG) Executive Committee Minutes
Archived at <http://neutrons.ornl.gov/users/shug>

Teleconference held July 10, 2012, 1:00pm EST.

Attendees

- Executive Committee: Greg Beaucage (chair), Dave Belanger, Yan Gao, Fred Heberle, Peter Khalifah, Tyrel McQueen, Hanno zur Loye
- Guests: Robert McGreevy, Kelly Beierschmitt, Bridgitte Mase, Al Ekkebus

Minutes submitted for review July 11, 2012 by F.A. Heberle.

ACTION ITEMS:

- SHUG executive committee members have been asked to test the beta version of the new Neutron User Portal. Please send feedback to Bridgitte Mase (masebm@ornl.gov).

ATTACHMENTS and WEBSITES of interest from the teleconference:

- ORNL User Portal (<https://user.ornl.gov>)
- Message from Bridgitte Mase requesting feedback for the user portal

From: Mase, Bridgitte

Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2012 11:03 PM

To: Ekkebus, Allen E.; Antonella Longo; Cora Lind; Dave Belanger; Heberle, Frederick A.; Greg Beaucage; Hanno zur Loye; Malcolm Guthrie; Michael Mackay; Peter Khalifah; Tyrel McQueen; Yan Gao

Cc: McGreevy, Robert L.; Schrof, Crystal A.; Baker, Michael L.

Subject: RE: ORNL User Portal

Dear All,

We are pleased to have your feedback concerning our new ORNL User Portal. The User Portal is located here: <https://user.ornl.gov> and you can log in with an existing ORNL account (either XCAMS or UCAMS account or simply a registered Email address). If you do not have an account already, you can create a new one at the same location.

The portal is meant to provide a single place to interface with the ORNL User Information Systems, as well as the supporting systems that Users need to interface with when planning a visit to ORNL (such as the training system or the pass invitation system). Currently, the system is most interactive with the User Information Systems that support the Spallation Neutron Source and High Flux Isotope Reactor User Programs, but the site is designed to eventually accommodate the Users of all the ORNL User Facilities. In this version, you should see any proposals that you have in the system where you are either the PI or a team member. You should see the status of those proposals. You should also see any scheduled proposals. If you have training assigned to you, this should also show in the training area. If you are scheduled to come onsite, you should see and be able to print any approved pass requests. If you have an invitation to fill out, it will also display in your personalized portal. Any required actions to proposals, end of experiment reports, training, etc, can be accessed and completed from your user portal.

Please take time to log in and provide us with your feedback. We will consistently take your feedback and strive to improve the portal.

Also, note that the account management system (you may know it as XCAMS) has been greatly improved with a much more simplistic User Interface (on the login page, if you choose "create a new account", you

will see what that interface is and can exit out before creating a new user id). Additional improvements include a simple “forgot password” that will allow you to enter your email address and it will send you a link to change your password without requiring the previous required questions and/or PIN. We hope you find these changes to be friendlier and easier to use than the previous mechanisms.

Thanks so much for your feedback and we look forward to hearing from you.

Bridgitte M. Mase
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Scientific Information Systems Manager
(865) 574-9678

1. Status updates (Robert McGreevy)

SNS is in its summer shutdown and will be back in August. The last few days of the 2012A cycle were difficult due to the failure of an RF window, but operation continued at low power (~400 kW) until the scheduled end of cycle.

HFIR will soon go into its summer shutdown, but will also be back in August just before the summer neutron school. IMAGINE has taken first neutrons and is now entering its commissioning phase.

There is currently a liquid helium shortage across the country that is affecting all of the large facilities (SNS deliveries have been reduced to 60% of normal). In principle, this shortage should start to ease toward the end of August. If it continues into the 2012B cycle, unfortunately there may be some restrictions on experiments. Kevin Jones is implementing an emergency backup solution (reliquifying He from cryogenics operations), but this won't be available for several months.

Kelly Beierschmitt announced that Robert McGreevy is leaving at the end of September to head ISIS. The search for Robert's replacement will begin in August.

2. Neutron User Portal feedback (Bridgitte Mase)

A brief exchange of feedback on the new portal was very positive, noting the lack of clutter and excellent integration of information, as well as useful links for travel. Sample environments will be added to the portal in the near future. Kelly Beierschmitt asked for feedback from the broader user community for improvement of the system.

3. Suggestions for outreach programs (All)

In the last meeting, Greg suggested that the SHUG committee come up with a few ideas for workshops. Malcolm proposed “High pressure research using neutrons”, and SHUG members were asked to think about other possibilities.

Yan proposed a materials science related workshop focused on energy materials, in situ measurements, and high-resolution powder diffraction. Peter suggested combining

techniques for structural analysis of inorganic materials to highlight SNS's strengths. Robert asked if, in addition to the scientific part of the workshop, is it worthwhile tagging on a day related to data analysis in those areas? Peter noted that the biggest challenge for analysis is temperature dependent or other parametric data, and focusing on these areas would be a nice aspect of a workshop. Kelly asked for the workshop to include the opportunity for input from the community regarding investment priorities for the facilities.

4. Upcoming events

The Neutron portion of the National School on Neutron and X-ray Scattering will be held August 18-25. ORNL will host 65 students, selected from over 220 applicants.

The Office of Basic Energy Sciences will be conducting their SNS/HFIR review August 28-31. SHUG members will participate in a conference call with BES reviewers on Tuesday, Aug. 28th at noon.

The next proposal call deadline is September 5 at noon eastern time. There were many expressions of displeasure from the SHUG committee, and a suggestion for a 12 hour grace period.

Robert noted that when proposing experiments that would require a new sample environment, this information should be clearly flagged for the review committee. The proposal should make clear whether the sample environment is a one-off or potentially of general use.

Next telecon date: Tuesday August 7, 2012, at 1:00pm EST