NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NCGS DINNER - MEETING

The Haiti Earthquake of 12 January 2010: A Geologic Perspective

Wednesday May 26, 2010

Speaker: Dr. Carol Prentice, U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park

6:00 pm at Orinda Masonic Center

(Reservations are required by May 21, 2010)

We are sorry but we will not be able to accommodate "walk-ins"

Stepping out of our normal routine, the **Northern California Geological Society** is pleased to announce this *special dinner and evening* with **Dr. Carol Prentice**. She just returned from four weeks of fieldwork in Haiti in late March. For this special event, planned for our normal monthly meeting date, but starting one-half hour early, we are planning in typical NCGS style, a Back Forty Texas BBQ **dinner consisting of Pork Ribs and BBQ Chicken, Tossed Green Salad, BBQ Beans, Fresh Corn Cobettes. For vegetarian dinners deluxe veggie burger will be served in place of BBQ. Desert will include assorted cookies and brownies. We may be again serving wines from BevMo specials (90 pts +).** Please also note that a vegetarian option is available if notified ahead (see registration form below).

Abstract: The Haiti Earthquake of 12 January 2010: A Geologic Perspective

The M7.0 earthquake that occurred in Haiti last January produced unprecedented destruction given the size of the earthquake. It caused more than twice as many casualties as any previous M7 earthquake of any size since 1900. The tectonic setting of Hispaniola, the island shared by the nations of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, within the plate-boundary zone between the Caribbean and North American plates guarantees that future large earthquakes are inevitable. There are three major structures that take up plate-boundary slip in the vicinity of Hispaniola, and likely many other poorly known secondary faults that are capable of producing large, potentially damaging earthquakes. Geologic investigations indicate that the 12 January earthquake was a complex event, causing coastal uplift and only minor surface rupture along a short section of the major fault in southern Haiti. The details of the 12 January event held many surprises from a scientific perspective, but the inevitability of earthquakes this size in this region is no surprise, and the tragic loss of life due to poor construction practices is also no surprise.

Biography: **Carol Prentice** received both MS and Ph. D. degrees in Geoscience from the California Institute of Technology, and her B. A. degree in Geology from Humboldt State University. Dr. Prentice taught earth science for three years at the high-school level after college and before entering graduate school. She is currently a research geologist at the U.S. Geological Survey, and is the project chief for the San Francisco Bay Area Earthquake Hazards Project. Carol's research involves the geologic study of active faults in northern California, the Caribbean, and Asia.

********** Dinner Logistics **********

Meeting Details: Social Hour: 6:00 – 7:00 pm; Dinner: 7:00 – 8:00 pm Presentation: 8:00 – open

Time: May 26, 2010, 6:00 pm, Orinda Masonic Center 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda, CA. **Cost**: **$20/person**

**************************REGISTRATION FORM (Dr. Carol Prentice Dinner) ********************

Name:_____ E-mail:_____

Phone (day):_____ Phone (cell) _____Phone (evening):_____

Dinner: Regular:_____ Vegetarian: _____ (Please check one) Check Amount: _____

Please mail a check made out to **NCGS** to: **Tridib Guha, 5016 Gloucester Lane, Martinez, CA 94553**

Questions: e-mail: tridibguha@sbcglobal.net Phone: (925) 370-0685 (evening) (925) 691-9002 (day)